SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

Thursday, December 25, 2014 | Read by more than 68,000 people | Price when sold 50p

Five-year sentence for arson at house

A WOMAN and her baby daughter had to be rescued by firefighters from an upstairs bedroom window after her partner set fire to their home.

Sean Morley, who started three separate fires at the property while they slept, has been jailed for five years.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the mother and child were woken by 21-year-old Morley as the semi-detached house in Elm Terrace, Tividale, filled with smoke.

Mr Andrew Wilkins, prosecuting, said the woman decided to stay in the bedroom after the fire service had been called due to the danger of taking their baby down the stairs and into more of the smoke.

Nobody was hurt in the incident but it did cause £13,000 damage to the address at around 4am on September 10 last year. Morley was also linked to seven previous fires which he denied responsibility for and had not been prosecuted over, disclosed Mr Wilkins.

Morley, of St Giles Avenue, Rowley Regis, pleaded guilty to arson while reckless as to whether life was endangered and was jailed by Judge Martin Walsh, who said: "I am concerned that there is no psychiatric explanation for your actions."

Fall at home led to death

AN 84-year-old man died in hospital after a fall at his home, an inquest heard.

Herbert Bennett, of Regis Heath Road, Rowley Regis, was taken to Sandwell General Hospital after the fall on November 21. He died three weeks later on December 14. An inquest into his death heard it had appeared Mr Bennett, was well enough to be discharged from hospital, but his condition quickly deteriorated.

Senior coroner Zafar Siddique recorded a verdict of accidental death.

I feel like I have been picked on, says teacher

Relief – Rina Khan

A TEACHER told of her relief after she was cleared of assaulting a six-year-old pupil with a ruler. Rina Khan, aged 41, of Smethwick, was accused of hitting the child so hard the ruler broke as punishment for getting a question wrong during a maths lesson.

She went on trial for common assault and child cruelty. But after less than an hour of deliberating last Wednesday, a jury agreed with her version of events and cleared of her of all charges.

Prosecutors had said she flipped and lost her temper before lashing out with the ruler. They also claimed she called the boy a 'muppet'. But Ms Khan wept in the dock as she told the court how she only 'tapped' the boy on the head because he was misbehaving by poking another pupil with a pencil. Recorder John Edwards told Ms Khan: "You have been found not guilty on both counts. You are discharged and you are free to go."

Outside court Ms Khan spoke of her relief following her ordeal which saw her suspended from her job and taking anti-depressants. She said: "I am just very relieved that the word was 'not guilty'. This has been going in since March.

"I was suspended and I have been ill at home since. I have been taking anti-depressants and I had become somewhat of a recluse. And all this just for tapping a child on the head with a ruler. I do feel like I have been picked on. I'm not sure what I'm going to do next."

The court heard how Ms Khan warned the child twice about poking the other pupil with a pencil at the school, which cannot be named for legal reasons.

She admitted then striking him on the head with the ruler but said she only did so gently and the ruler may have broken because it was weak.

Jurors were also told the boy 'barely reacted at all' and was not injured during the incident. Mr Tom Walkling, defending, added: "Do we want to live in a world where teachers are so afraid of being prosecuted in a criminal court that they are wary of any contact with the children in their care? Is tapping a naughty boy on the head with a ruler really a criminal assault?"

FESTIVE JOY FOR FAMILY OF BOY

A COUPLE are celebrating a Christmas miracle of their own this year, following the recovery of their son.

Three-year-old Gaurav Bains, from Tipton needed an operation in order to pass donated stem cells into his body after being diagnosed with a rare blood condition last year.

by Dominic Bareham

A year on, and Gaurav is back home with his parents Sunny and Gurprit, for their first Christmas together since his surgery. Gaurav was given a donor thanks to a worldwide appeal.

After his successful blood transfusion, Gaurav has recovered well according to doctors, and will be opening his presents this year at home with parents Gurprit and Sunny, joined by sister Kiran, aged five. It is in contrast to last Christmas, when he spent the day in an isolation room at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Leukaemia

Gaurav needed the operation to pass donated stem cells into his body to prevent him developing an aggressive form of childhood leukaemia.

He had been diagnosed with the rare blood condition Monosomy 7 Syndrome. His father said: "As a family, we are just looking forward to having a normal Christmas at home. The best way to describe it is sometimes you can take a normal Christmas for granted. Last year, it was spent in hospital and my daughter could not see him. This year, just having a normal family Christmas. It is going to be fantastic."

He said Gaurav was learning how to walk again and has started his nursery schooling at the Orchard in Oldbury. His blood test results were also fine and doctors were happy with his progress. He is still not tolerating food and is fed fluids through a tube attached to his nose.

The family had to endure a torturous ordeal in the months leading up to Christmas 2013 as the months counted down to find a bone marrow donor with a 100 per cent match.

An appeal was launched on Facebook entitled Gaurav Bains' Journey – Blood Donor Appeal to encourage more people to join the bone marrow register. In October, his father received the Anthony Nolan Supporters Black and Ethnic Minority Award for helping to increase the number of black and Asian people on the stem cell register.

Back home for Christmas – Gaurav Bains, recovering well one year after his blood transplant

Mosque with gold frontage approved

How the mosque will look

A GOLDEN-FRONTED mosque will be built, providing a grand structure at the entrance to a £42 million regeneration project.

Plans for the redevelopment of the Masjid and Bangladeshi Islamic Centre in Smethwick – currently based in converted industrial units in Lewisham Road – were given the go-ahead last Wednesday.

The new three-storey structure will consist of two separate buildings linked by a central glazed atrium. It will stand at the entrance to the Brindley Village II regeneration scheme, consisting of almost 200 homes on a 12-acre site around Lewisham Road, Mafeking Road and the Birmingham Mainline canal.

Labour Councillor Zahoor Ahmed, who represents the St Paul's ward on Sandwell Council, welcomed the decision.

He said: "This is good news for the area. It should be welcomed by all."

Church gives toys to needy

CHILDREN in care have received a donation of toys from Great Barr Methodist Church.

The toys were distributed at the Sandwell Looked After Children's Education Awards Ceremony at the Bethel Convention Centre.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It's a fantastic gesture. They will be distributed amongst the children and young people in the care of Sandwell council."

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	18
TV	25
Motoring	32
Classifieds	34
Sport	39-40

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Sandwell who can help:
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Adam Grinsell: 01902 319501
adam.grinsell@expressandstar.co.uk
Tom Mason: 01902 319550
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Katy-Rose Meaney: 01384 353201
katy.meaney@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. E-mail your information and pictures to: Sandwell.Chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453, e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising:
Nicky Cope
01902 319573
Email nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Property:
Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 4444331
E-mail: c.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:
Jayne La Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465344
E-mail: jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Classified:
Tel: 01902 317878

Classified trade:
Tel: 01902 319191

Distribution:
Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

SANDWELL CHRONICLE
51-53, Queen Street
Wolverhampton
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm
and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Cuts on way for city's flagship library

BIRMINGHAM City Council has announced plans to axe more than 1,000 jobs and reduce opening hours at its flagship £189 million library.

Around 100 posts are expected to go at the Library of Birmingham, which opened in September last year, as part of plans to reduce council spending.

Unveiling the Labour-run authority's consultation on its 2015 budget, council leader Sir Albert Bore said the authority needed to make annual savings of £117 million next year.

Under the plans, announced by Sir Albert at the city's Council House, the Library of Birmingham would see its weekly opening hours slashed from 73 to 40 in April next year. Approximately 100 of the library's 188 staff would also lose their jobs, while business, learning, music and archive services will cease, other than counter transactions, if external funding cannot be identified.

The Library of Birmingham houses one of the world's largest Shakespeare-related collections and was shortlisted for this year's Riba Stirling Prize. The council's 133-page "white paper", outlining its budget proposals, also contained plans to withdraw subsidies from community events and festivals, including the St Patrick's Day parade.

Live monitoring of CCTV footage from hundreds of council-run cameras around the city would also cease except in emergencies, although images would still be recorded.

Builder lawfully killed after attack on officer

A BUILDER from the Black Country was shot dead by a policeman in America after he stabbed the officer in the face.

Former pupil at Wood Green School in Wednesbury, Sharrinder Singh Garcha, aged 20, died in the Wisconsin shooting after turning on a deputy searching for a girl he had runaway with. An inquest last Tuesday, in Smethwick concluded the cause of death was lawful killing.

By Dan Wainwright

A coroner heard how Garcha had tried to cut the throat of a deputy sheriff with a knife.

But his family, from Walsall, insisted he was a 'gentle giant'. Garcha, who lived with his parents in Bull Street, Darlaston, travelled to America in October.

He flew into Tampa International Airport in Florida on October 10 but was immediately refused entry because police believed he was there to meet a young girl under the age of 18.

His passport was confiscated and he was told he would be deported the next day. Garcha, however, failed to collect the passport and it is believed he met up with the 17-year-old girl.

Deported

They then left Florida and ran away to Wisconsin. Once there, Garcha came into contact with the police again and said he had information about the runaway girl. Officers realised he was supposed to be deported and that is what is believed to have provoked the stabbing and shooting on November 14.

He had been considered a 'person of interest' by the Department of Homeland Security, according to the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office. During an interview Garcha told sheriff's investigator William Gray that he knew where the runaway was.

Gray then drove Garcha to several locations, including a car park where Gray waited for assistance before checking a residence. As the two waited in Gray's unmarked squad car, Garcha attacked Gray with a knife, stabbing him several times in the face and neck before being shot in the head by the deputy, killing him instantly.

Deputy Sheriff Gray was taken to hospital, suffering severe cuts to his face, neck and hands but he has since recovered.

Senior coroner Zafar Siddique concluded it had been a lawful killing in what appeared to be self-defence. Family at Garcha's home in Bull Street said he had been looking for building work in America.

Garcha was described as a 'gentle giant' but relatives declined to comment further. A Facebook page, called RIP Sharrinder Garcha, has been set up in his memory.

Eyewitnesses to the incident told how Gray emerged from the car bloody and clutching his neck, bent over and went to the road to wave down a car.

Two lorries stopped and Gray fell to his knees.

Chippewa County Sheriff Jim Kowalczyk said the officer is now recovering. He said: "He's doing well, and I wish him the best.

"He's a very, very good officer and hopefully it's just a matter of time before he's back."

William Gray, stabbed in the face by Garcha

Sharrinder Garcha, shot dead by a policeman

Soaring sales of balloonist tales

The autobiography of an entrepreneur and aviation adventurer has reached the top of the online book sales.

Mike Kendrick, who lives in Bridgnorth, has seen his book, Thursday's Child – The Mike Kendrick Story, climb into the top one per cent of sales through global internet company, Amazon. The book, co-written by author Simon Golding, has received critical acclaim on the UK and US Amazon book sites. Sir Richard Branson, who wrote the book's foreword, has encouraged his friend and former balloon adventurer, Mr Kendrick, to write a second book, which will be called The Branson Years.

Mr Kendrick, 68, said he believed the book, which covers his escapades in Bridgnorth, Birmingham and the Black Country, had performed so well because of the "honesty, hilarity and tales of adventure". Thursday's Child is available via Amazon.co.uk and Waterstones. Fifty signed first edition copies have also been made available for the Christmas period.

West Brom cakes day in aid of top cause

IT may be cold outside but building society staff did their best to warm things up for shoppers by hosting a charity cake and coffee day.

The West Brom's Winter Warmer fundraising event generated £3,200 for Alzheimer's Society – its charity of the year.

Branches including Oldbury on Birmingham Street joined forces to bake and brew their way to the total, which will help support people in the region affected by dementia.

Oldbury branch manager Veena Mattu said: "We had real fun preparing for the event and putting on a tempting spread for our customers who gave so generously throughout the day. It was also an opportunity to spread awareness about dementia, which can be particularly challenging for families to cope with at this time of year."

Ray Nash from Alzheimer's Society said: "We are extremely grateful to the West Brom and their customers for coming together to raise money."

Greg in call for backing

TENNIS star Greg Rusedski was the principal guest at a Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Premier members' lunch at Chung Ying Gardens, Birmingham.

He was joined by key figures from the Lawn Tennis Association, who have become Premier members of the business organisation.

The former Great Britain Davis Cup player urged businesses to support the Aegon Birmingham Classic, which takes place at the Edgbaston Priory Club from June 15-21.

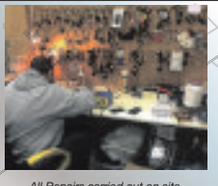
Race sponsor platform bid

BOSSES at a Darlaston flooring factory are celebrating after scooping a new deal worth tens of thousands of pounds to build a platform for a Formula One event.

Regent Engineering Ltd based in Salisbury Street this year won a £70,000 contract to create a Floorstak platform for a sponsor at the race in Abu Dhabi. It was built for a private function at an hotel at Saadiyat Island and was the factory's first foray in the region.

SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK • SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK • SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK •

• All phone screens & laptops repaired on site
• iPhone 4, 5 and iPad repairs carried out by a fully qualified iTechnician
• Fast, efficient and reliable same-day service


All Repairs carried out on site

We offer a range of 'Pay As You Go' phones, both brand new and second hand, also a wide range of accessories. Brand new mobile phones unlocked and available on all networks start from just £19 and phone accessories include sim cards, silicone and gel cases, batteries, flip wallets, headphones, screen protectors, home and in-car chargers, international calling cards and are also local agents for Giffgaff and Lycamobile.

We also offer an on site repair centre where we can fix any phone screen and also provide a while-you-wait service.

All repairs on any I-Phone or I-Pad are carried out by our qualified I-Technician, who provides a fast, efficient and reliable service.

REPAIR • UNLOCK • SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK • SELL

Talk n Talk Mobiles & Repair Centre 81 Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7AY Tel: 07825 414759

Borough improves placing in grades list

SANDWELL improved its position in the primary school league tables to joint 88th, with 78 per cent of Key Stage 2 pupils achieving benchmark grades.

The result represents a rise on last year's figure when 73 per cent of 11-year-olds in the city attained Level 4 in reading, writing and maths.

The best performing primary school in the borough was St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary in Oldbury, where all 30 pupils eligible for assessment achieved the benchmark level 4 in the three key disciplines.

The 'outstanding' rated school rose from 12th place in the ranks last year, with pupils getting an average points score of 30.8 across all tests plus the writing assessment.

Timbertree Academy in Cradley Heath grabbed second spot, crowning a massive leap of 42 places from last year. A total of 97 per cent of its pupils gained level 4 reading, writing and maths, while the average points score was 30.5.

Bottom of the rankings was Cape Primary School in Smethwick, where less than half of pupils achieved level 4 for the three key subjects.

Allergies bid to help diners

PEOPLE with food allergies will have a right to more info when they eat out. And trading standards in Sandwell are urging diners to contact them if they don't get it, on 0121 569 6628.

New laws mean that from 13 December caterers like cafes, restaurants and takeaways have to be able to tell customers what's in their food that could cause an allergic reaction.

Customers with allergies are asked to carry 'chef advice cards' available to download from the Food Standards Agency website at www.food.gov.uk/allergy

Link road meet

HIGHWAYS bosses are to hold a meeting in Essington over a proposed link road between the M54, M6 and M6 Toll. Residents called for a consultation with motorway chiefs. It will be held on January 9 and January 10 at Essington Community Centre.

Work to start on Paradise transformation

A new CGI of the prospective view

WORK will start next month on the £500 million transformation of Paradise Circus in the heart of Birmingham city centre.

The announcement that work starts on the 17-acre site in January came from the joint venture company, Paradise Circus Limited Partnership (PCLP), a partnership between Birmingham City Council and BT Pension Scheme.

The scheme will be managed by Hermes Real Estate, one of the UK's biggest property companies, with Argent as the development manager.

Chris Taylor, chief executive of Hermes Real Estate, said: "This is the moment we have all been working towards during the years of planning this transformational project. We are now in the position to move the development forward rapidly.

"The transformation of this significant site at the civic, cultural and historic heart of the city will start with a programme of enabling and infrastructure works funded through the approved investment by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)."

These works, which include changes to the highways surrounding the development, will begin from January 5.

As well as changes to the roads and other parts of the infrastructure of the area, the first phase of the development will include major demolition work and improvements to public areas including Chamberlain Square. The infrastructure work will be carried out by Wolverhampton-based construction group Carillion.

Two of the office buildings overlooking Chamberlain Square will be redeveloped.

Evil act changed my life forever, says brave Vikki

SHE was a teenage girl who fell for a 'controlling' lover 60 years her senior.

But when Vikki Horsman built up the courage to walk away from pensioner Mohammed Rafiq, she paid a high price. He struck back with an evil act which would change her life forever.

Miss Horsman was left mentally and physically scarred by an acid attack masterminded by her jilted 80-year-old lover.

Rafiq recruited Steven Holmes and Shannon Heaps to carry out his revenge attack on the doorstep of a house in Tividale in April.

The trio were found guilty by a jury of inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent at Wolverhampton Crown Court following a three-week trial. Following the outcome of the case, Miss Horsman admitted: "The trauma and distress that Rafiq and his accomplices have put me under have left mental scars I fear will never go away."

Succession

Miss Horsman met Rafiq when she was just 14. She converted to Islam and changed her name to Aleena Rafiq to please her much older boyfriend. He had bought her a car, and she had begun to rely on Rafiq after losing her mother and father in quick succession.

But the relationship started to break down as Rafiq pressured her to become a Muslim in November last year. She ended the relationship at Christmas last year, but her courage set in action a spiralling course of events that led to a horrific attack. "What happened that day changed my life forever," Miss Horsman said, in a statement read out by DC Jason Moseley following the outcome of the trial."I suffered severe scarring to my neck and chest and have

by Alex Ross

recently had to undergo further surgery.

"I still have sleepless nights and keep leaving my home to stay with friends and relatives as I can't bear to be on my own. This is what those people have done to me – all because I had the courage to be my own person and escape a controlling man."

Rafiq, of Cheshire Road, Smethwick, enlisted the help of two men, Heaps, 23, of Queens Avenue, Tividale, and 25-year-old Holmes, of Allen Close, Smethwick, to carry out his plan on April 15.

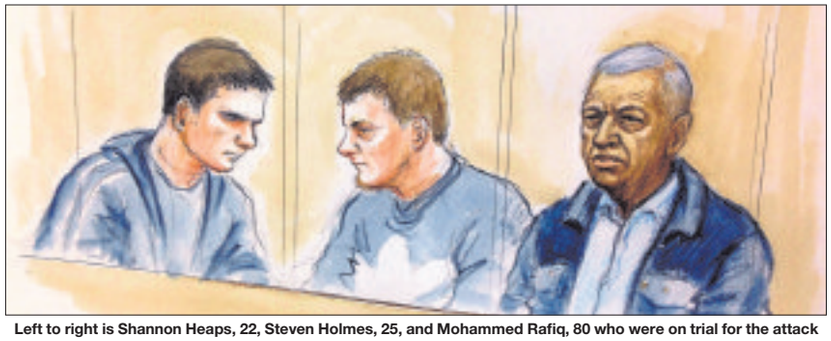
During the trial, Miss Horsman described to the jury how she had been at the house in MacDonald Close at the time of the attack. The house was co-owned by Rafiq's son and another woman.

She said she heard a knock at the door before opening it. The sulphuric acid was then thrown over Miss Horsman, burning her face, neck, shoulders and upper leg. Initially, Rafiq was treated as a victim, having also suffered minor burns when splashed with the liquid.

However, his part in the plot later became clear to investigating officers and he was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and perverting the course of justice. He claimed to not know the person who threw the acid.

Vikki Horsman, 20, has been scarred for life by the attack

A police officer at the crime scene at the house in Tividale



Left to right is Shannon Heaps, 22, Steven Holmes, 25, and Mohammed Rafiq, 80 who were on trial for the attack

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dementia help at hand in libraries

SANDWELL library staff are working with volunteers on ways to help people with dementia.

Staff have signed up to the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Action Alliance to work towards becoming dementia friendly, working with local charity Buds (Better Understanding of Dementia for Sandwell).

They are hosting 'Dementia Friends' awareness sessions across Sandwell. So far, 72 people and 40 library staff have become Dementia Friends.Oldbury Library, together with Buds, runs weekly Memory Group meetings. Call Oldbury Library on 0121 552 5933.

Find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries

Driving jobs on offer at company

ON-THE-SPOT job offers will be available at a recruitment event for drivers next month.

Gregory Distribution is seeking lorry drivers and has arranged for interviews and job matching for the right candidates.

The event is being held at the Minworth operations of the distribution specialist, on Kingsbury Road, south of Sutton Coldfield, from 9am to 1pm on January10. There will be on the day assessments, including driving a vehicle from Gregory's fleet. Visit www.gdl.uk.com email recruitment@gdl.uk.com or phone 0808 168 9048.

Spaking proper with new project

RIGHTS & Equality Sandwell has won a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to record and archive language used in the local area.

The "Where's our spake gone?" project is establishing words and phrases that are still in use.

The study is comparing various areas in the Black Country. To find our more, or to get involved as a volunteer or participant, call 0121 541 1775 or email enquiries@rightsandequalitysandwell.co.uk

Chance to try sport sessions

YOUNG people in Sandwell are being given the opportunity to take part in free sports sessions thanks to a new scheme being launched in January.

Ready for Sport will provide activities including basketball, football and dancing at Jubilee Youth Centre in Tipton. Young people will be asked what sports they want to try.

BARGAIN BLINDS
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE
QUALITY BLINDS
6 Child Safe Vertical Blinds From £169 Fully Fitted
All Other Blinds Reduced
Celebrating Our 15th Year
VERTICALS, ROLLERS, VENETIANS, ROMANS, VELUX, PLEATED, PATIO AWNINGS AND CURTAINS, CONSERVATORY & CURVED BLIND SPECIALISTS
FREE Quote FREE Fitting
FREE Child Safety Features
Free Phone 0800 0347 111
Sandwell -www.ukbargainblinds.co.uk

Elite Property Services
10% Discount with this advert
AT LAST! A COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST & RELY ON
Repair Centre
WINDOW, DOOR & CONSERVATORY REPAIRS
We offer a complete repair service on all uPVC Windows & Doors
• Broken or Misted Double Glazed Units Replaced
• Handles, Letterboxes, Hinges Replaced
• uPVC Door Lock Specialists
• Dropped Doors Re-Aligned
• All Work Fully Guaranteed
• Free Assessment & Quotation
• Burglar Alarms
• CCTV Systems
• Beat The "Gold Thief".....
High Quality SAFES Fully Fitted from £150
Call Now For Your FREE Quote
0121 556 7771 • 07412 766665
24HR Emergency Number 07834 882294
Head Office: 132 Walsall Road, West Bromwich B71 3HP
www.Elite-Property-Services.co.uk

NEW YEAR SALE UP TO 25% OFF
SELECTED KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BEDROOMS
10 REASONS TO HAVE AN IDEAL HOMECARE BATHROOM / KITCHEN / BEDROOM
1 Family business established over 25 years
2 Vast majority of work comes from recommendations
3 FREE home design service, we listen to you and design to your requirements
4 Large choice of design, 100s of doors, worktops, tiles, sinks and taps to choose from, but do not worry, we are here to help and advise what is right for you
5 We project manage from start to finish
6 We can supply only, or complete the whole project, including tiling, electrics, plumbing, building, plastering and even decorating
7 All rubbish removed at the end of the project
8 Gas Safe fitters (formerly Corgi)
9 NICEIC Registered electricians
10 Quality products at realistic prices
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES
Closed Mon 23rd, Tues 24th, Wed 25th and Thurs 26th December / Open Fri 27th and Sat 28th December 10-4pm
Closed Mon 30th, Tues 31st and Wed 1st January then re open as normal 2nd January 10-4pm
The Home Improvement Specialist
ideal HOMECARE
Established over 25 years
5 Hall Green Road, Stone Cross
West Bromwich, B71 3JS
Telephone: 0121 588 5737

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OWING to a door being accidentally left open I spent the night sharing a bed with the cat and was reminded of a crucial difference between dogs and cats. A dog will never sit on your head.

BAH, humbug and off to the big store. It is the duty of every male at this time of year to be dragged up and down tinsel-decked aisles while looking at pointless objects. Consider the following: A window vacuum. A gluten-free sausage-making kit. A small book entitled A Guinea Pig Nativity. You can measure the state of society's development by counting the number of objects we can manage perfectly well without.

THE Daily Telegraph leader column, no less, assures us this week that Kate and William's little boy "will be George VII one fine day." Not if his grandfather beats him to it, he won't. There is still speculation that Prince Charles, on taking the throne, will style himself King George VII. Let us hope we have to wait a very long time to find out.

IS there anything sillier than the claim by Ukip leader Nigel Farage that he was late for a party in Wales as a result of immigration causing traffic jams? Yes, there is. It is the monstrous, head-in-the-sand delusion among so many politicians that the population of the UK can rise from 50 million to 70 million in a single lifetime and cause no problems at all. Voters are tempted by Farage only because they are governed by ostriches.

LIFE imitates art but politics imitates adverts. In the Twix TV commercial, the makers of the chocolate twin-bar have a row and set up separate factories, one producing the left bar, the other the right. Both are convinced their products are totally different but everyone can see they are identical. And so to the interview with shadow chancellor Ed Balls on Today (Radio 4) when Sarah Montague tried, and failed, to establish which government department budgets would be cut by a future Labour government, and by how much. Balls' message is that Labour's cuts will be fair but tough. George Osborne's message is that Tory cuts will be tough but fair. Left bar? Right bar? It's a puzzle, innit? Meanwhile, Sarah Montague's brave but futile attempt to shine a light into Labour's true intentions should be recorded and shown to schoolchildren everywhere as an example of that useful phrase: "Like trying to nail blancmange to the ceiling."

I GET a regular stream of mail from a small but noisy group of old codgers complaining about how hard-up pensioners are these days. The suggestion is that there was once a golden age when pensioners had enough money. Remind me. When was that?

THERE is a theory that people are drawn to careers which reflect their name, which is why Mr Salmon works for the water company and Miss Frost is a weather forecaster. A reader reports a fine concreting job completed by Norman the Concretor and Jim'll Mix It.

A READER overheard this conversation between a stallholder and an English customer trying to get into the spirit of the Frankfurt Christmas Market in Birmingham by ordering a sausage and mustard in the lingo. Brit: "Eine Bratwurst mit Senf, bitte ." Stallholder: "No point talking like that, mate. I'm from Sedgley."

BENEFITS Street (C4) returns next year, this time examining the lager-fuelled underclass in Stockton-on-Tees. In response, a local campaign has been launched to promote the town's image. It is called The Positively Stockton-on-Tees campaign, to be known as Psst for short. Seriously.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Club shut down over gang concerns

A NIGHTCLUB which police said had become a haven for the region's most notorious gangs has had its licence revoked.

West Midlands Police decided to take action against Pulse nightclub in Brierley Hill following two stabbings and a gun shot in the last year. They had been able to identify several of the club's clients as having ties to the Johnson Crew, the Burger Bar Boys and other criminal elements referred to as the Sandwell Affiliated Crime Group.

The club's licence was revoked by a Dudley Council licensing sub-committee. Licence holder Steve Simpson had surrendered the licence hours before the meeting at the council's chambers on Priory Road, but it was decided to proceed with the review. Licensing Officer, Pc Sunny Cheema, said: "We are very pleased with this result. Pulse as a venue put Dudley borough at risk of increased gang activity.

"This proactive enforcement sends out a clear message to other licensed premises that any venues in the area that breach their licensing conditions will be investigated and action will be taken." During the hearing the sub-committee was told a shot had been fired outside the club on Dudley Road on January 25 and a stabbing had taken place on October 12. But it was a further stabbing on November 2 – in which three people were taken to hospital – which prompted police action. Speaking on behalf of West Midlands Police, barrister Andrew Evans said Pulse had developed a tolerance of gang members who were allowed to enter the club with weapons.

Mr Simpson was given 21 days to appeal against the decision.

Strongman jailed over car repair row attack

A THUG once 'crowned' Sandwell's Strongest Man has been jailed for 14 years for a cowardly hammer attack on a mechanic following a car repair row.

Calvin McLeod, from Smethwick, fractured the garage owner's skull and continued raining hammer blows down upon him as he lay defenceless on the floor of his Winson Green workshop.

The 29-year-old, of Montague Road, was found guilty of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm at Birmingham Crown Court.

Birmingham Crown Court heard how he confronted the man – described by the judge as a 'slight, retiring man' who stood a foot shorter than McLeod – because he had refused to repair his mother's car.

McLeod marched into the Handsworth New Road body-shop on October 17 last year shouting 'what did you say to my mom' before pulling a hammer from his sleeve and launching a ferocious attack, the court heard.

Calvin McLeod, of Smethwick

Parade

West Midlands Police officers traced the car to McLeod's family home but he evaded capture for a month until, on November 19, Met Police officers stopped him in Southall and found him with drugs and a lock-knife hidden in his boxer shorts, the court was told.

He denied the attack but was picked out during a police ID parade and police were able to place him near the garage at the time of the attack.

At Birmingham Crown Court he was found guilty and jailed for 13 years.

He was also handed an extra 12-months behind bars for possessing an offensive weapon.

Investigating officer, DC Lance Pritchard from West Midlands Police Force CID, said: "The victim was attacked at his place a work – a place he had every right to feel safe.

"McLeod said in court he enters strongman competitions and at 6ft 2ins was around a foot taller than the mechanic – given his physical advantage it makes the use of the hammer particularly unnecessary and cowardly.

"The judge said it was a mercy his victim wasn't killed and that we'd provided powerful evidence which resulted in a swift conviction by the jury.

"They were unanimous in finding him guilty in little over an hour.

"My best wishes go to the innocent victim in this case who was attacked over a petty, meaningless squabble and we wish him well in his recovery," added DC Pritchard.

McLeod was named Sandwell's Strongest Man is 2012, police said.

Special day for young Astle

Astle Derrick, aged 11 and Jeff's daughter Claire Astle, at the recent game against Villa

IT'S become an important tradition at all Baggies games – a weekly tribute paid to club hero Jeff Astle with a minute's applause and a banner held aloft.

And for the big derby against Aston Villa the moment was more special than ever before as the 11-year-old who held the banner is named after the West Brom legend.

Astle Derrick took on the responsibility of raising the banner in front of almost 25,000 people. And rivalries were put aside for the tribute, held in the ninth minute, with Villa's supporters applauding alongside their West Brom rivals.

Astle's mother Louise got in touch with the Astle family just two weeks ago asking whether her Baggies-loving son could hold the Justice For Jeff banner. And daughters Claire and Dawn were only too happy to accommodate the youngster, who goes to Orchards Primary Academy in Northfield.

Season ticket holder Louise, from Frankley said: "It was absolutely brilliant, he enjoyed every moment of it. We're massive Baggies fans and it was a special thing to do. Astle's just starting to understand about his name now and he's quite proud."

The Justice For Jeff campaign has gathered momentum in recent months with the Astle family holding meetings with the FA amid calls to research the effects of repeatedly heading footballs on players' health.

Astle died in 2002, aged 59, from brain damage which a coroner concluded was sustained through heading leather footballs during his glittering football career.

Albion won the game 1-0 thanks to a goal from ex-Villa midfielder Craig Gardner.

School will get upgrade in project

A CARILLION joint venture has been appointed as the selected bidder for a £190 million public private partnership project to deliver improvements to eight Midlands schools including one in Sandwell.

The Phoenix Collegiate in Clarkes Lane, West Bromwich, created from the merger of Manor Foundation and Menzies schools, will benefit from the priority school building programme delivered by Carillion and partner Equitix.

The programme will finance, design, build and provide improved facilities for the eight schools. It is part of the Government's £750m programme through which the Education Funding Agency is renewing schools in England that have been prioritised for replacement or upgrading.

Carillion, which has its headquarters in Wolverhampton, expects to invest up to £9 million in the project and expects to generate construction and services revenue of about £190m over the life of the 27-year contract. Carillion chief executive, Richard Howson said: "This is the second major PPP project in the UK for which we have been selected as the preferred bidder this year."

New deal for town foundry

BLACK Country foundry business Thomas Dudley Ltd has bought a Tipton-based castings company in a new deal.

It has acquired Black Country Castings Ltd, which is based in Sedgley Road East, enabling Thomas Dudley to manufacture grey and ductile iron castings. The deal comes after Thomas Dudley, based in Tipton Road, Dudley, recently invested £8 million in equipping its foundry.

Foundry director, Mick Cramphorn, said: "The acquisition of BCC furthers this investment."

Rail services hit

RAIL passengers are being reminded to check before they travel. Reduced timetables are in use on various routes on Christmas Eve with the frequency of trains winding down from 1pm, London Midland said. There will be no trains on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

MASSIVE PRICE REDUCTION MINIMUM FARE £2.50*
ALL AREAS COVERED!
EVEN SANTA CLAUS USES 1-2-1 CARS
24 HOUR SERVICE!
0121 557 0121
557 7575
500 5050
✓ UPDATES TO METER PRICES ✓ AUTO CAB DESPATCH SYSTEM
✓ MINIMUM FARE £2.50 ALL OVER CHRISTMAS & THE NEW YEAR *(SUBJECT TO MILEAGE)
Fully computerised with fitted meters! Ring back & text back service!
To our valued customers, from the management and drivers we wish you and your family all the very best this Christmas
1-2-1 CARS
BIG FLEET! SMALL PRICES!
WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU PAY!
TAXI
MINIMUM FARE £2.50 SUBJECT TO MILEAGE
ALL DRIVERS ARE CRB CHECKED

Window and Door Repairs
Specialists in: Misty and broken glass units
Leaks, seals and drafts
Handles, hinges and locks - repaired or replaced • INSURANCE WORK - NO PROBLEM
Rectification of badly fitted installations
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
GUESTS
Over 25 years experience – COMPETITIVE PRICES!!!
For Free advice and quote call Mark Guest on
01384 456490 or 07976 227034

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW AT CASH 4 CLOTHES
GET INSTANT CASH
WE BUY ASIAN CLOTHES
Free Collection
FOR ALL YOUR OLD CLOTHES AND RAGS
10 KILOS 1 BLACK BAG £5.00 OR MORE
We Buy: Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, Bedding
● No Workwear ● No Dirty or Damaged Clothes We also take Washing Machines, Fridges and any other surplus appliances
07808 085919 www.oberonrecycling.co.uk Email: info@oberonrecycling.co.uk
275 Bristnall Hall Road, Oldbury B68 9NF (Queens Head, Opp Garage) Shop: 145 Lunt Road, Bilston, WV14 7AJ

Concerns on plans for Red House site

CAMPAIGNERS say plans to build new homes next to a Great Barr mansion house would blight the building's historic features.

Proposals were revealed to transform The Red House into eight apartments – to the sadness of campaigners who wanted it to become a community building.

But the scheme also includes plans to build a terrace of six three-bedroom houses next to the house that stands within Red House Park.

The homes would be built on part of the site that was recently used as the Jumping Jacks children's play centre.

But the Friends of Red House Park group is concerned the houses and associated car parking would obscure views of The Red House.

Group chairman Bill Gunn called on people to table objections and would be speaking with MP Tom Watson in detail on the issue.

The Red House has been plagued by vandalism attacks and thefts over the last decade.

It is owned by Sandwell Council and stands on a 27-acre estate. A decision will be taken on the scheme in the coming weeks.

Scientist in cancer hope

A SCIENTIST in the Midlands is carrying out a new research project with £20,000 funding from charity Breast Cancer Campaign.

Fedor Berditchevski, based at the University of Birmingham, is investigating how inflammatory breast cancer – a rare but very aggressive type of the disease – is able to grow and spread to other parts of the body.In the West Midlands, on average over 4,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, and, sadly, more than 1,000 women in the region die from the disease every year.

Nikki in concert

NICKI Minaj will perform at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena next year. She will bring The Pinkprint Tour to the venue on April 3. The tour also features R&B superstar Trey Songz. Tickets are on sale now available from www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

Seats increase just the ticket for rail boost

One of the new Class 350/3 Desiro trains

THOUSANDS more seats per week are now available on trains through the West Midlands as part of a £62 million investment in services. Rail firm London Midland hailed the plan as its biggest timetable shake-up in six years, promising more services in and out of Birmingham and to London,

The firm announced £62 million worth of new trains, new services and 139,000 more seats per week across its network. This includes 75,000 extra seats in and out of Birmingham New Street and more direct services to the capital.

London Midland managing director Patrick Verwer said: "With more people travelling with us each year our passengers are telling us they want more services, quicker journeys and more seats. We have listened and taken the opportunity with our new trains to make as many improvements for as many passengers as we can."

There will also be an extra 6,000 seats between New Street and Birmingham International. London Midland is also increasing the number of services from Birmingham and Coventry to London. This means there will be an extra 18,000 seats on this route to and from the capital each week. The company said that since 2007 it has seen demand for its services grow by a third.

Councillor Roger Horton, lead member for rail and Metro on Centro, the region's public transport co-ordinator, said: "These extra services and seats will further improve the level of comfort and convenience for passengers. These enhancements will also help meet the ever rising demand for rail travel in the West Midlands, which has seen passenger numbers double over the last decade or so."

For more details on the changes visit www.londonmidland.com/goodnews

Autoglass may lose centre as part of huge overhaul

VEHICLE repairs company Autoglass could close its Black Country customer centre as it looks to become a mobile repair business.

The windscreen repairs company has entered a consultation with staff across its branch network over the closure of all of its customer service centres up and down the country. Its network includes a branch in George Henry Road, Great Bridge.

In total, the company could make 179 people redundant as a result of the closures.

The consultation is expected to be complete by March.

Autoglass spokesman Tom Hubbard said: "Autoglass is a business with customer service at its heart. We strive to constantly evolve our business model to ensure that we continue to offer the best possible service to our customers.

"As part of our ongoing commitment to customer service and quality, we have been reviewing our operational processes to ensure that we deliver the level of service expected by our customers now and in the future.

"We've identified opportunities to bring our service closer to customers."

Autoglass, owned by family-run American company Belron, employs around 1,000 people in total around the UK. It has been operating in this country for 42 years.

Autoglass, which serves more than a million motorists each year, has more than 100 branches across the UK and 1,100 mobile technicians. If the closures go ahead then from next March customers will phone to make an appointment for repairs done at their home or work rather than driving to the nearest branch.

New Flybe flights for overseas

AIRLINE Flybe has added two new routes to France in its summer schedule from Birmingham Airport.

It will be operating 25 routes with choice of up to 336 flights a week

The two new destinations are Biarritz and Bastia on the island of Corsica

Tickets are on sale for booking at www.flybe.com from £24.99 one way including taxes and charges and currently available for travel between March 29 and September 3 next year.

It will also be the first summer of Flybe flights to Berlin-Tegel and there will be increased frequency on its popular Amsterdam route with a choice of up to four flights a day.

Paul Simmons, Flybe's chief commercial officer, said: "We are pleased to add two more new routes from our Birmingham base and to increase our popular weekday Amsterdam flights up to four flights a day. Over the last 12months we have continued to grow and develop the airline to provide the most cost-effective, efficient and flexible service."

US cycle trek in memory of Rebecca

Hugo Card, a close friend of Rebecca, who will be taking part in the American Coast to Coast next year

A FRIEND of a university student killed when she was hit by a car at a bus stop is to cycle across the United States in her memory.

Rebecca McManus, from Oldbury, died after the crash at the stop in Hagley Road West in Bearwood. The 21-year-old's death shocked former peers and teachers at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge and University of East Anglia in Norwich. Hugo Card, who was a close friend of Rebecca, has responded by joining up to take part in the American Coast to Coast 2015. He will pedal around 4,000 miles from New York to Los Angeles.

Mr Card, 24, from Farnham in Surrey, said: "When I heard the news I didn't know what to do as the news was so devastating. She was such a wonderful person and it really stunned everyone who knew her." Hugo, who shared halls of residence with Rebecca, is dedicating the expedition to her. He is also fundraising for the charity Brake to raise awareness about road safety.

He will start the 60-day challenge on March 21. He is calling on people to donate through his YouTube channel, called Donate to Dare.

Two men appeared in court earlier this month in connection with Rebecca's death in May. Inderjit Singh, 29 of Cranbourne Avenue, Ettingshall and Sukvinder Mannan, 32 of Roundhills Road, Halesowen were charged with causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury through dangerous driving. They will next appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on February 24.

Rebecca McManus

NEWS IN BRIEF

Covenant signed on better service

BIRMINGHAM City Council is the first local authority to sign a new Faith Covenant. It is an agreement between councils and faith groups to work together to benefit the community.

The council and faith group representatives signed the covenant at a public launch held at the Library of Birmingham.

Councillor James McKay said: "Organisations and services can only become stronger by working together in an open and generous way, with a shared set of values and principles to guide their activities on a daily basis."

Forbidden sci-fi show in return

THE hit musical Return to the Forbidden Planet will be performed in Birmingham on its 25th anniversary tour.

The touring show is visiting the New Alexandra Theatre from January 26 to 31. The Olivier Award-winning production, which is based on Shakespeare's The Tempest and rock 'n' roll, includes a space rocket, robot and a giant alien.

Tickets are from £12.90 to £38.90 from the box office on 0844 871 3011.

Nike and Gap to open at complex

NIKE and Gap Outlet will open stores at the new Resorts World complex in Birmingham.

They are the first names to be announced for the leisure and entertainment site near the NEC.

A further three retailers are currently at advanced stages of completing their agreements. Earlier in the year, Cineworld was announced as operator of the 11-screen cinema.

Site of pub may become housing

AN eyesore site left empty after a Tipton pub was knocked down will be given a new lease of life.

Nine homes will be built on the site of The Lagoon on the corner of High Street and Union Street.

The houses would have a mixture of two and three bedrooms. A planning application has been lodged with Sandwell Council.

Pub extension

A PUB in Willenhall town centre has put forward fresh expansions plans. The Royal George in New Road wants to create a two-storey rear extension and has sent revised proposals to Walsall Council planners.

Before You Buy Come & Try
SOFAS & CHAIRS
Large Choice of Recliners and Fireside Chairs
Visit Our Showroom and Compare Our Quality and Very Keen Prices

Cushion Refills from £25

"All of our sofas are made on the premises with care and pride"
Martin & Neil

Unit 6, Queens Court Industrial Estate, Greets Green Road, West Bromwich B70 9EG
THE SOFAHOUSE LTD. Done the Old Fashioned Way!
Tel: 0121 520 3111
www.sofahouseupholstery.co.uk

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

ONE thing that maybe should have been on your Christmas list – a pillowcase using technology borrowed from Nasa?

Now maybe you were under the misconception that pillow cases were pretty much one and the same. Ok, some might be polyester, some cotton – maybe silk if you're from Tettenhall – but by and large, there isn't that much technology that goes into them.

Well, our good friends in the old US of A are really pushing the envelope (I think that's what they say across the pond) with their latest development in pillowcase technology.

Completely demolishing the myth that space exploration is an expensive luxury, somebody has used the findings of extra-terrestrial research to come up with a range of pillowcases that look and smell like bacon. Why did nobody come up with this sooner?

"Our bacon-scented pillowcases use state-of-the-art printing technology we stole from Nasa to allow the scent of bacon to permeate your dreams and expand your mind," says the press release.

"That's right, the scent of bacon is embedded in the ink on these specially printed pillowcases," adds the wonderfully understated missive.

If cared for according to the included instructions, the smell will last for six-to-12 months, and can endure multiple wash cycles.

Not only that, sleeping on a machine-washable bacon buttie can also enrich the mind, giving us better dreams and a dramatic rise in intelligence levels according to some of the more bizarre claims.

It also promises easier morning wake-ups and effortless weight loss.

Unless, of course, you eat your pillowcase.

❑❑❑❑❑

MEMO to local authorities, and other taxpayer-funded bodies. Replacing words with numerals, such as Pathway 2 Change or Plan 4 Life does not make you look trendy, relevant or cool.

It does make you look semi-literate and stupid, though. And is it any wonder that some youngsters leave school barely able to construct a sentence in basic English when the authorities which are supposed to be educating them appear unable to tell the difference between numbers and letters?

❑❑❑❑❑

MEANWHILE, the British Army will send hundreds of troops over to Iraq in the New Year, to 'pass on the lessons learned in Afghanistan'.

Lessons learned in Afghanistan? The words 'horse', 'bolted' and 'stable door' spring to mind. Perhaps if a previous prime minister had learned the lessons from the past, we would never have sent any troops to Afghanistan in the first place.

MP Gavin Williamson's choice

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey's card

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz's card

Wolverhampton's Emma Reynolds's choice

The party leaders' choice of cards for this year

Walsall MP David Winnick's choice

House of cards for political Christmas

Differing politician festive card designs show a wide variety of styles as we head towards election year

FROM the Houses of Parliament in the snow to the drawings of schoolchildren, MPs always try to find their own way of saying Merry Christmas.

While party leaders such as David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg put themselves on the front of their cards, backbenchers and shadow ministers like to reflect the people they represent.

Some go as far as to organise competitions months in advance among youngsters as they seek the right design.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey was so keen to get started he launched his competition in June, while temperatures were in the low 20s.

But the Labour MP wanted to give every primary school in his constituency the opportunity to get involved.

Nine eventually took him up on the offer and had their youngsters submit their designs.

The winning entry was by 10-year-old Mohammed Rezwan Shuvo of Sacred Heart Primary School in Tipton, who painted his school in the snow.

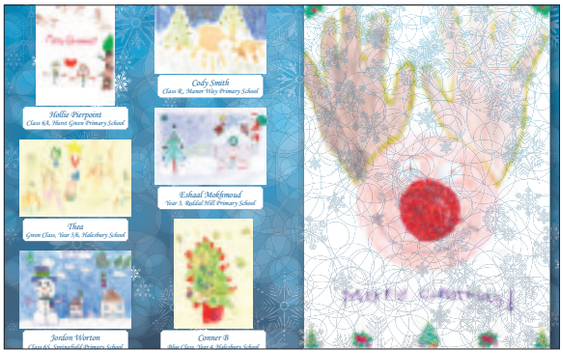
His picture will now feature on the front of Mr Bailey's constituency Christmas cards of which more than 1,000 are being sent to constituents, businesses, places of worship and schools.

Mr Bailey said: "Mohammed's entry was fantastic as were all the entries and it was very difficult to choose a winner."

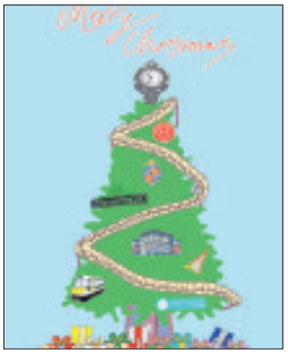
All the pictures are being displayed in Tipton Library where the majority of the schools took part in the competition.

Another MP who chose a youngster to create his card's image was South Staffordshire's Gavin Williamson.

As Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, he will be sure to send a card to David Cameron.



The card chosen by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris



Stourbridge MP Margot James's card

That means Caitlin Oakley, who is in year nine at Wombourne's Ounsdale Primary School, will have her picture of a snowman and snow woman in front of the village maypole on display in 10 Downing Street.

Wolverhampton North East's Emma Reynolds chose from 100 entries from primary schools.

The winner was Melissa Malahleha, aged 10, a pupil at St Paul's Primary School in Pendeford.

Miss Reynolds, shadow housing minister, said: "I send over 500 cards every year, so I was excited to give one of my talented young constituents an opportunity to design it."

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, and Margot James, who represents Stourbridge also got young people to design their cards. Miss James worked with Stourbridge College Art and Design Centre in Brierley Hill.

The winner was Aaron-Ryan Samra, studying a one year diploma in foundation studies art and design. Other MPs go for something that shows where they work. Valerie Vaz, who represents Walsall South, went for an image of a ceiling boss depicting St Catherine from the Chapel of St MaryUndercroft at the Palace of Westminster.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, chose one of the Elizabeth Tower, which houses Big Ben.

The photograph was taken by Catherine Bebbington and is part of the official selection chosen by the Commons Speaker John Bercow.

Official

Lichfield Conservative Michael Fabricant, who has been highly critical of Mr Bercow's conduct this year and called for him to go over his treatment of a former Clerk of the House, has not gone with the official selection. Instead he has used a photograph of Westminster in the snow, taken from the Terrace of the Commons, on the side near the Thames that the public does not get to see. "It was taken by a friend of mine, Sir John Randall MP, and I made a few Photoshop changes to bring out the colours," Mr Fabricant said.

David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg opted for starkly different styles for their final festive cards before the general election battle.

The Prime Minister has signalled his intent with a statesmanlike photograph outside 10 Downing Street. A besuited Tory leader is shown standing alongside wife Samantha, and flanked by Chelsea Pensioners.

Mr Miliband, meanwhile, has opted for a more personal touch. The Labour leader – who has faced criticism for struggling to connect with ordinary voters – sits at a table at his London home with wife Justine and their sons, five-year-old Daniel and Samuel, four.

But Liberal Democrat leader Mr Clegg and wife Miriam have joined the trend for "photoboothing". The couple are shown in a series of passport-style shots, with the Deputy Prime Minister donning a Santa hat before holding up a sign saying "Merry Christmas!".

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

DAVID Winnick knows a thing or two about liberty and freedom, so it was a surprise to hear him raise the prospect of fining people who don't turn out to vote.

The long-serving MP for Walsall North was responsible for Tony Blair's first Commons defeat on a whipped vote when, in 2005, he rebelled over Labour's planned 90-day detention 28 days without trial of terror suspects.

He put forward an amendment limiting it to 28 days and won. In a week when the CIA has been shamed for its use of torture and we were reminded that a British citizen is still in Guantanamo Bay 12 years after being detained, without a conviction, Mr Winnick must have been fully aware of the context of his proposal.

For while he is adamant that it is a democratic right to vote, what he wants the Commons to discuss in a 10-minute Rule Bill in January is the democratic right not to vote.

He proposes that it be made a civic obligation to vote, or at the very least make clear one's intention to abstain. Effectively then, being apathetic about politics would attract a fine.

Mr Winnick suggests something like the Australian system, where voting has been compulsory since the 1920s and turnout has been consistently above 90 per cent.

In Britain in 2010 it was 65 per cent. That was a slight improvement on 2005 but it meant one in three people did not bother to put anything on a ballot paper.

Even if they had scrawled 'none of the above' on their paper and spoiled it, that would still have counted as turning out.

In the elections for the West Midlands police and crime commissioner it was even more dire. Barely one in 10 registered a preference.

The Government had offered democratic accountability for people overseeing the police force and the electorate either did not understand what it was they were being offered or did not care.

Mr Winnick's worry is that, left unchecked, there will come a time when a government is elected and fewer than half the people had their say on it.

Anyone who cares about the democratic process would share that concern.

What Mr Winnick and his fellow MPs must address in their debate, however, is why it has come to this.

The argument that the parties are all the same no longer applies now that New Labour is over. There is an enormous difference between Labour and the Tories in terms of policy.

Yet among the leaders – Oxford graduates, career politicians etc – there isn't a fat lot. And it is also pretty rare in General Elections to see just those two parties on the ballot paper. People have plenty of choice. They just aren't using it.

Age-old problem with carers' growth

NEW Carers UK research has found that over two million of us will start providing care for older, sick or disabled loved ones every year and many will go without the vital advice and information they need.

With an ageing population and people living longer with disabilities, caring for a loved one is increasingly a reality for families. In fact, as our research found, 10.6 million people across the UK will take on a caring role over the next five years and £1.1 billion of Carer's Allowance goes unclaimed each year. It's vital that anyone caring for a loved one seeks advice to ensure they are getting the services and support they are entitled to. They can be pushed to breaking point. This has serious consequences for individuals, families, employers and the UK economy as a whole. With new rights in the Care Act coming into effect next year, carers locally need to be informed.

Carers UK has launched a new Carers Rights Guide available at www.carersuk.org, which contains important information on how to get support, including details on upcoming changes to carers' rights. Readers can call 0808 808 7777 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday or email advice@carersuk.org with any specific queries.

HELENA HERKLOTS, Carers UK

Award not deserved

FURTHER to the recent letter from Iris Ellis MBE, I would endorse her comments and I am wondering if anything can be done regarding National Express and Centro being awarded this prestigious award.

Two years ago the same thing happened with the re-routing of the 42 route in Tipton and high numbers of elderly and disabled people became prisoners in their own homes. I am surprised that another 'numpty idea' from them has not received much publicity; this being the withdrawal of the 311 service from the stops outside Wednesbury Parkway Tram Station.

The reason given – their difficulty running to time because of the delays at the junction of Leabrooke Road!

Do these actions make them worthy of an award for putting passengers first? I don't think so!

B CALLOW, Tipton

Firm rides roughshod on opinion

I MUST agree with Irene Ellis MBE. I would also question if National Express West Midlands put passengers first.

On the Route Irene mentioned, they have now changed the section in the Bearwood area, between The Bear Tavern and Abbey Road Schools.

I wonder if Irene like myself were one of the local people that were not consulted despite the customers charter: 'If the bus is delayed, we keep you informed. When we change services, we inform you well in advance. We won't make major changes without consulting local people.'

Just what in their opinion constitutes 'major changes'. Recently, they have changed the 53 Route in Hawthorns Area, West Bromwich and Bearwood Area, Warley. Let us not forget the cancellation of the evening service West Bromwich to Bearwood and the Sunday service. Do these not constitute major changes?

E J JOHNSON, Smethwick

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Great interest on the buses' revamp

I WAS very interested to read in the Express & Star that National Express are to spend £34m on 171 new buses.

I was particularly interested to read the comments of Mr Peter Coates, Managing Director of National Express when he says: "These new vehicles will ensure our customers have cleaner and more enjoyable journeys.

"The buses will have more comfortable seats, better lighting and CCTV."

I could not help notice that Mr Coates made no reference to better reliability of service.

Which Mr Coates, your customers are most interested in and indeed deserve after all, Mr Coates, they pay your salary.

Some of your bus routes once you get out of Birmingham City Centre leave a great deal to be desired.

Yes it will be nice to have more room on some of the seats as some are only fit for smaller passengers, with no leg room what so ever.

Can I suggest, Mr Coates, you concentrate fitting of plush seating for your coaches.

Just, Mr Coates, put more effort into providing more reliable bus services so that your customers can get to work and appointments without having to set out to get there half an hour or more before they are due because your buses, Mr Coates, are so unreliable.

E J JOHNSON
Warley

Call to MEP over scheme

BILL Etheridge tells us that he knows there is more to the plan for a Greater Birmingham that has already been signed and sealed by council leaders across the West Midlands.

How does he know this? Because as a UKIP MEP he attends the EU Regional Development Committee that has been discussing this plan for some time as part of the EU Cities 2020. So Mr Etheridge UKIP MEP why haven't you been informing us of this for some time; why aren't you telling us what these very serious strings that are attached are?

C BURGESS
West Bromwich

WAREHOUSE SALE NOW ON
SHOWER DOORS WAS ~~£299~~ NOW £30.00
BATHROOM CABINETS WAS ~~£109~~ NOW £55.00

FREE
NO OBLIGATION
IN HOME PLANNING & DESIGN

BATH TO SHOWER CONVERSION
LIMITED SALE OFFER
£1999.00
FULLY FITTED

NEW sliding door option
EASY clean wall panels
LUXURY seat option
SAFETY grab bar option
INSTALLED IN 2 DAYS*

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS
FOR ALL JANUARY 2015 INSTALLATIONS

FREE TILES#
FOR ALL ORDERS PLACED IN JANUARY

- Discount Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Over 50 displays in store
- Large showroom & free parking
- Free no obligation survey

Interia are a long established,trusted, family owned business, with over 30 combined Years in the industry

POTTERS LANE, WEDNESBURY,
REAR OF MECCA BINGO,
WS10 7LH

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE SURVEY
0121 505 1132

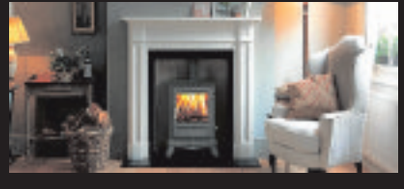
15 metre squared of tiles supplied free with any kitchen or bathroom fully installed. *Based on straight forward fitting. These offers not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply see in store for details.

4 DAY SALE STARTS

Saturday 27th - Tuesday 30th December 11am - 4pm
UP TO 50% OFF MASSIVE SAVINGS

INSPIRATIONAL FIRES & FIREPLACES

Be Inspired . . .



Showroom: 404-406 Bearwood Road
Bearwood B66 4EX
Tel: 0121 429 3186
www.inspirationalfires.co.uk
email: info@inspirationalfires.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

DRY JANUARY®

Start the year by giving your body a break
save money • lose weight • feel energised

SIGN UP AT DRYJANUARY.ORG.UK

Sandwel
Metropolitan Borough Council

Award-winner Dean, 20, is a weld-class worker

Dean MacDonald who has won Britain's most talented trainee welder and who works at Doosan Babcock, Tipton

AN apprentice from the Black Country has been named the country's most talented trainee welder.

Dean MacDonald, who works at Doosan Babcock in Tipton, took the top title after successfully completing four challenges.

The 20-year-old competed alongside nine other finalists from across the UK at The Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham. He demonstrated his skills with carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminium using a combination of techniques.

Dean said he was delighted to have won the competition, adding: "Since getting my apprenticeship at Doosan Babcock, this is the best thing that has ever happened to me in my career."

More than 100 trainee welders applied to take part in this year's SkillWeld competition and Dean was shortlisted for the final stage of the competition after scoring highly in the regional heats, which took place earlier this year. Age eligible competitors from SkillWeld2014 could be selected to compete for their country at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi in 2017.

Colin Kennedy, Marketing Associate UK & Ireland at Air Products, who helped to organise the competition, said: "All the contestants this year are great ambassadors for their craft and we hope that their achievement will inspire others to consider a career in welding in the future."

Dean, seen with his gear, at work

AFFORDABLE WINDOWS & DOORS

Work you can Trust

Put your Trust in Steve...Looking after Clients for 15 years

WINDOW PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE

Victorian & Edwardian Conservatories AVAILABLE CALL NOW

All work project managed from start to finish

DOOR BARRELL CHANGES from £20

GGF

www.wolverhamptonwindows.co.uk

01902 827879 - 07710 434223

FENSA Registered Company

Designa Blinds

Vertical Blind Specialist

Tel: 07976 045 530

Tel: 0121 293 7119

Child Safe - Cordless Systems

Full Range of Fabrics

Free Measure & Quote

Fast Reliable Service

Competitive Pricing

Fabrics only Service available

Conservatories from £275

Average Semi £300

Showrooms at: West Bromwich Indoor Market, Bearwood Indoor Market, Northfield Indoor Market

Factory Showroom: Wolverhampton Road South B32 2AY

RYDALE

CELEBRATING OVER 29 YEARS

WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES, ORANGERIES, PORCHES, FASCIAS & SOFFIT BOARDS SUPPLIED & FITTED TO ALL AREAS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

You can be sure you have made the right decision!

ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE

Rydale take security very seriously

Guaranteed high security on all products

Full details on request

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES:

24th to 28th December Closed

29th & 30th December 10am-4pm

31st December 10am-3pm

1st January Closed

2nd January Normal Opening Times Apply

WINDOW, CONSERVATORY, PORCH, FASCIA & SOFFIT NEWS

How has Rydale built up an excellent reputation?

It's simple customers' satisfaction and quality. The quality of Rydale's product, the quality of all Rydale personnel and the unbeatable service given to the public is second to none. No wonder Rydale has so many satisfied customers, just look at the facts. Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry.No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, that's why we have been in business for more than 29 years. Rydale Windows security features make our windows super safe. We have a wide range of products on display at our purpose built showrooms and factories situated in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm. At Rydale we feel that it is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase.

We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all our products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer. At Rydale we do not take any deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed. Rydale has been a trusted brand in our area for over 29 years. If we give you a guarantee we will always be here to honour it.

Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.

Repair Service available

Winter Sale NOW ON

Finance Available

At Rydale we care about the customer, spend your money wisely

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window showrooms in the UK

Massive Discounts

on all orders placed now for January installation

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060

OPEN WEEKDAYS 9 AM TO 5.30 PM, SATURDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM, SUNDAY CLOSED

Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen, B62 9LS

www.rydalewindows.co.uk

RYDALE 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

NEWS IN BRIEF

On cue for pews with church move

PLANS to turn a former snooker hall into a church have been given the go-ahead. The Birmingham Pentecostal Fellowship will move in to The Golden Cue, in Station Road, Rowley Regis, over the next six months.

The organisation, which has almost 100 members, currently hires a church hall in Solihull on Sundays. Leader Reverend Wessly Lukose said: "We're delighted, we'd been hoping for approval for many weeks, and now it's come."

The fellowship describes itself as a family-focused organisation affiliated to Assemblies of God. It plans to hold services at the church on Saturdays and Sundays. The church group will now buy the site for £230,000.

Leaders 'fixated' on big business

A BOSS at the Black Country Chamber of Commerce believes Government policy helps larger companies more than small businesses.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce President Ninder Johal said: "It seems that government policy is fixated upon larger companies who have access to the kinds of resources smaller businesses struggle with.

"In 2015 we will launch our Access to Finance service which will help organisations make sense of all the financial products and services currently available.

"We will continue to find ways to empower local businesses so their voice is heard."

Baggies bonus for youngsters facing a Christmas in hospital

By Alex Ross

IT was all smiles for youngsters at a Midland hospital when football stars brought some festive joy to poorly children.

West Bromwich Albion players Joleon Lescott, Chris Brunt, Ben Foster, Craig Gardiner and Gareth McAuley all took time off to spend the afternoon at Birmingham Children's Hospital recently.

They brought with them Christmas gifts, which they handed over to the children while also talking to them and their families.

Among those to meet the stars was Phoebe Wherton, aged 14, who had surgery delayed so she could see her heroes.

The West Brom fan, who has cerebral palsy, was with her mother Claire. The family live in Stone Cross in West Bromwich.

Mrs Wherton said: "Phoebe came in for treatment, but on hearing the players were here, she asked to see them. We had Joleon Lescott and Ben Foster come over, they asked how she was and about her Christmas.

"She would love to see them more often, but she can't get to the games, so listens on the radio instead."

Lily Ann Tansell-Price is in hospital after suffering 12 per cent burns when her clothes were set alight as she leant over her television. The six-year-old who lives with her father Barry Price, 47, at The Archers pub in Walsall.

Joleon Lescott meets Phoebe Wherton from West Bromwich who is a patient in the children's ward

15-year-old Villa fan Moin Younis from Handsworth taking the mickey out of the Albion players during their visit

Six-year-old Lillyann Price and her dad Barry give Ben Foster a Christmas biscuit to thank him for his visit

Gareth McAuley signs an autograph for six-year-old Romeo Massey-Marks from Willenhall at the hospital

Nine-year-old Lewis Loader and his gran Alison Loader meet Joleon Lescott, Gareth McAuley and Chris Brunt

The Yew Tree Primary School child had a shirt signed by the players and was given a teddy bear. Mr Price said: "You have to give it to players, coming in on their own time is great, it brings happiness to the kids, you can see it all around."

Reo Massey-Marks, eight, was in hospital for heart surgery, and parents Dawn and Dean hoped he would be home that day. Joleon Lescott, Ben Foster and Gareth McAuley spoke to Reo, who had to give up football due to his heart condition.

The family lives in Willenhall.

Miss Massey, 34, said: "For children spending a long time in hospital, this gives them something to look forward to, then gives them a good memory to look back on when they are out, aside from all the unhappiness."

Aston Villa fan Moin Younis, aged 15, is in and out of hospital due to a skin condition. Despite his club allegiance, Moin, from Handsworth, was delighted to see the players. His father Mohammed, 46, said: "As soon as he heard the players were coming in he told me to come down and see him talk to them. It's made him so happy. He is so cheeky with the players."

Hospital youth worker Kim Caves said: "You can be a professional footballer, but doing things like this shows the human being behind them."

Club captain Chris Brunt said: "It's a regular occurrence, we do it every year.

"It's never a nice place to be at any stage of the year but especially for the kids around Christmas time as well. It's not nice, we met a boy that has been here a year since the last time we came – it must be horrible for him and his family."

Play | Learn | Have fun | Explore | Make new friends | Adventure

FREE childcare for 2 year olds in Sandwell

Your 2 year old may be able to get up to 15 hours free childcare a week during term time.

That's 15 hours a week to learn through play, make their first friends, sing, dance, dress up and have lots of fun.

That's also 15 hours a week for you to have a break, spend more time with your younger children, get stuff done around the house, study or look for work.

To find out more please contact Sandwell Family Information Service 0121 569 4914 or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/freechildcare

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Family Information Service

In Stock for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

Nearly everything in stock for **immediate delivery!**

Save £350!

upto **50% OFF!**

Sofas | Dining | Beds

sale starts Boxing Day at 9am!

ISLE COLLECTION **COZY CORNER SOFA**

Beautiful and comfortable the Isla snuggle sofa is now in stock for immediate delivery. In Mink with cream and beige patterned scatter cushions.

Isle was ~~£1049~~ now **£699**

7 day SALE

Our biggest ever **7 day sale** event starts Friday 26th December!

Cambridge Leather 3 Seater Recliner Sofa was ~~£1399~~ now **£699**

Oxford Leather Collection 3 Seater Recliner Sofa was ~~£1099~~ now **£499**

Amazon Collection 3 Seater Recliner Sofa was ~~£829~~ now **£499**

ncf furnishing your home...

NCF Perry Barr, 2-6 Kingstanding Road, Perry Barr, B44 8AA ✆: **0121 356 7022**

NCF Cannock, Green Lane, Cannock, WS11 0JJ ✆: **01543 570 759**

NCF Burton on Trent, Centrum East Retail Park, Eighth Av, DE14 2WG ✆: **01283 740 019**

NCF High Gate, 1 John Kempe Way, High Gate, B12 0HU ✆: **0121 772 4659**

see our new look website: **www.ncffurnishings.co.uk**

Store opening times: **Please go online to see individual store times**

Offers are subject to availability, images show are for illustration purposes only.

buy with confidence established for **over 30 years!**

Been quoted silly prices? Then try...
Premiere Bedrooms & Kitchens

- Cut Out The Middle Man
- Manufacturers and Installers of Bespoke Fitted Furniture
- Free Quote and Design Service
- Gas, Electrics and Plumbing Included

SALE NOW ON!

- Door and Drawer Front Refits
- Sliding Wardrobes
- Wide Range of Styles
- All Accessories
- Wide Range of Colours
- Home Office Solutions

Visit our showroom at 7 Hainge Road, Tividale B69 2NR
Tel: 0121 557 1903 Mob: 07973 172421
www.premierebedrooms.co.uk email: billyheydon@yahoo.co.uk

New routes for buses to include axed 297

NEW bus routes will be launched for passengers in Old Hill and Cradley including one which will restore part of a service controversially axed by transport bosses.

Centro says the new services which will launch next month will take passengers to Merry Hill shopping centre, Halesowen town centre and Blackheath.

One of the four new routes will replace part of the old 297 service in Cradley and Old Hill. The 297 was stopped earlier in the summer sparking complaints. A campaign has been launched to restore the full service which ran through Old Hill, Cradley Heath and Quarry Bank to Russells Hall Hospital.

But Quarry Bank Councillor Bryan Cotterill says the replacement route is not good enough because it will not take passengers to the hospital. He has written to transport bosses to request a further meeting to discuss the services.

Speaking about the four new routes, Councillor Kath Hartley, from Centro, said: "The old services were encountering issues with reliability, complexity and low usage and were no longer fit for purpose." The new

by Heather Large

routes will be subsidised by Centro and operated by Arriva Buses and iGO. The No 12 will run from Merry Hill bus station to Blackheath via Dunns Bank, Colley Gate, and Old Hill.

The No 13 will operate from Merry Hill bus station to Halesowen via Dunns Bank, Fatherless Barn and Colley Gate. The No 14 will serve Brierley Hill High Street, Merry Hill bus station, Dunns Bank, Cradley Heath via Forge Lane, and Fatherless Barn via Banner Lane. The No 17 will run from Merry Hill bus station to Halesowen via Coppice Lane, Cradley Heath High Street, Timbertree, Belle Vale and Huntingtree Road.

Each route will provide an hourly Monday to Saturday daytime service.

Sinead is stepping out with Jersey Boys

The Jersey Boys cast, from left, Lewis Griffiths, Stephen Webb, Sinead Long, Tim Driesden and Sam Ferriday

HIT musical Jersey Boys has arrived in town – and a girl from the Black Country is among those taking centre stage.

Halesowen-born Sinead Long, aged 23, is appearing in the show, which is now on at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

West End star Tim Driesen is heading the cast as Frankie Valli, while Sam Ferriday, who plays Bob Gaudio, is from Telford and stars alongside Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi, Stephen Webb as Tommy DeVito, while Matt Corner also plays Frankie Valli at certain performances.

Miss Long grew up in Halesowen and attended Our Lady and St Kenelm Primary School in Halesowen and Hagley High School before completing her A-levels at King Edward VI School in Stourbridge.

She trained in ballet, tap and modern jazz from around the age of two to 18 at Timmins Academy in Halesowen.

At 16 she even took part in the New Alexandra Theatre Stage Experience scheme with a role in West Side Story.

Jersey Boys runs at the Birmingham theatre until January 4.

Amica Lec prestige BEKO RANGEmaster Hotpoint

CHRISTMAS SALE NOW ON!!!!
UP TO 50% OFF

5% OFF on all orders over £200

FREE LOCAL SAME DAY DELIVERY RIGHT UP TO XMAS EVE!

RANGE COOKERS FROM £499
GAS & ELECTRIC HOBS FROM £69
VACUUM CLEANERS FROM £29 STEAM CLEANERS FROM £39 CARPET WASHERS FROM £89
BUILT-IN OVENS FROM £149 DOUBLES FROM £299
FRIDGE FREEZERS FROM £169 AVAILABLE IN WHITE AND SILVER
19" LCD FROM £99 OFFER 32" LCD DIGITAL/HD NOW ONLY £159.99
GAS & ELECTRIC COOKERS FROM £179
WASHING MACHINE SPECIAL OFFER WAS: £199 NOW £179 Also available in Silver
MICROWAVES from £29 ALSO COMBI'S from £59
DRYERS 6KG WHITE & SILVER VENTED £139 CONDENSERS FROM £199
DISHWASHERS FROM £169 BUILT-IN FROM £220 AVAILABLE IN FULL SIZE AND SLIMLINE
GAS & ELECTRICAL FIRES FROM £99
MONTPELLIER RETRO FRIDGE FREEZERS NOW AVAILABLE FROST FREE RED/CREAM/BLACK FROM £400
UNDER-COUNTER FRIDGES FROM £129 FREEZERS FROM £139 BUY THE PAIR £250
LEISURE RANGE COOKER 100CM/ DUAL FUEL/ CREAM LAST FEW! £799
HOTPOINT WASHER HV7L145P 7KG WASH LOAD, 1400 SPIN WAS £329 NOW £269
HOTPOINT FRIDGE FREEZERS WHITE/BLACK/SILVER 6FT/A+ CLASS ALSO IN FROST FREE FROM £279
INDESIT FRIDGE FREEZER CA55 SUPER SAVING A CLASS WAS £299 NOW £249 ALSO IN FROST FREE NOW ONLY £299
WAE24060GB BOSCH WASHER 6kg LOAD 1200 SPIN WAS £349 NOW ONLY £299
CANDY WASHER 8KG LOAD 1400 SPIN WAS £299 NOW ONLY £249.99
CANNON COOKER CH60GCIK 60 WIDE / DOUBLE OVEN AVAILABLE, IN WHITE & SILVER NOW ONLY £499
HOTPOINT COOKER HUG52P NEW MODEL / ALL COLOURS IN STOCK / DOUBLE OVEN / 50WIDE ONLY £399
CANNON COOKER C50GKXF S/STEEL/ 50 WIDE/ DOUBLE OVEN. LIMITED STOCK! ONLY £429
STATESMAN DRYER MXV603W 6KG LOAD/ VENTED/ SENSOR DRYING NOW ONLY £149

ALL ITEMS BRAND NEW!
FULLY GUARANTEED DIRECT FROM MANUFACTURERS

2-4 Upper High Street, Wednesbury WS10 7HF
www.westmidlandselectricalsuperstore.com
Email: westmidlandsalesuk@btconnect.com
OPEN Mon - Sat 9.00am - 6.30pm
CALL 0121 505 6108
Major credit cards taken

Central Heating Assistance

For a LIMITED PERIOD ONLY Sandwell Council is able to help provide central heating systems to homeowners who have no central heating or an old inefficient "G" rated boiler or back boiler.

If you live in Sandwell and have a low household income and are:

- over 60 or
- disabled or have
- chronic health issues or have
- children up to the age of nineteen

You may be eligible for assistance.*
*Subject to terms and conditions

If you want to know more contact:
Sandwell Council Home Improvement Agency on:
0121 569 5232
or email:
privatesector_housing@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell Home Improvement Agency
Court House, West Bromwich.
West Midlands, B70 8LU

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

In Stock for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

Save £900!

Nearly everything in stock for **immediate delivery!**

upto **50% OFF!**

Sofas | Dining | Beds

sale starts **Boxing Day at 9am!**

BENTLEY DESIGNS designs for better living

AS SEEN ON TV

BENTLEY DESIGNS
CHANTILLY DINING TABLE & 6 CHAIRS
The Chantilly Oak dining collection is crafted from American white oak solids and veneers, and offers a contemporary update to classic French styling.

Chantilly v.v.p ~~£1899~~ now **£999**

7 day SALE

Our biggest ever **7 day sale** event starts Friday 26th December!

ncf furnishing your home...

NCF Perry Barr, 2-6 Kingstanding Road, Perry Barr, B44 8AA ✆: **0121 356 7022**

NCF Cannock, Green Lane, Cannock, WS11 0JJ ✆: **01543 570 759**

NCF Burton on Trent, Centrum East Retail Park, Eighth Av, DE14 2WG ✆: **01283 740 019**

NCF High Gate, 1 John Kempe Way, High Gate, B12 0HU ✆: **0121 772 4659**

see our new look website: **www.ncffurnishings.co.uk**

Store opening times: **Please go online to see individual store times**

Offers are subject to availability, images show are for illustration purposes only.

buy with confidence established for **over 30 years!**

Choir kicks off festive celebrations

Walsall Central Townwomen's Guild

CHAIRMAN Mrs Pat Jones welcomed everyone to the December 2 meeting and after all the formal business, she announced that the group would be entertained by 14 members who formed the WCTG choir.

Prior to the performance festive goodies, provided by members, were enjoyed, which set the Christmas theme. The programme consisted of carols and Christmas songs and the choir was greatly assisted by Ric Smith, a keyboard virtuoso and the husband of one of the members.

On Saturday December 6 the South Staffs Federation Choir presented a Christmas carol service at St Martin's Church, Walsall.

This is an annual event which takes place at various locations and, as this year's chosen venue was local – combined with the fact that Federation chairman Mrs Patricia White belongs to WCTG – fellow members showed their support by hosting the event.

Refreshments, including seasonal mince pies, were very much appreciated by both the choir and the audience and the afternoon provided a wonderful start to the Christmas celebrations.

The next meeting of WCTG takes place on Tuesday January 6 at the Mellish Room, Central Hall, Ablewell Street, Walsall, commencing at 7pm.

New members are always most welcome and should contact Mrs Janice Fussell, secretary, on 01922 631246.

Retiring chairman in gift for charity

Pat Pratt, Sarah Jones and Sue Booker

Highgate Ladies Probus Club

HIGHGATE Ladies Probus Club welcomed Sarah Jones from Breakthrough Cancer and Pat Pratt who has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

A cheque for £150 was presented to them by Sue Booker, retiring Probus Club chairman.

Breakthrough Cancer was Mrs Booker's charity of choice during her year as chairman.

Highgate Ladies Probus Club meets on the second Monday of each month at Broadway United Reform Church hall in Gillity Avenue, Walsall.

Meetings start at 10.15am and visitors are very welcome to join the friendly bunch of members.

Each month brings a different speaker, which is always interesting and entertaining.

Tea and coffee is served along with lots of laughs.

Christmas party followed by hilarious festive quiz

Brownhills Townswomen's Guild

THE December meeting took the form of a Christmas party which was enjoyed by Guild members.

The winners of the 'best dressed table' competition were Pauline, Karen, Maureen, Jill, Sandra and Vera.

The party was followed by a Christmas quiz organised by Laura Hucker and carried out amid much hilarity.

The next guild meeting will include the annual auction of goodies. Meetings take place at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month.

The guild meets in the Lichfield Suite at the Memorial Hall, Brownhills. There is plenty of parking space and the bus stops at the door.

For information on the group's activities call Mary on 01543 360890.

Maddy brings a real carnival of music

Maddy Prior and The Carnival Band, Town Hall, Birmingham

WHEN it comes to putting on Christmas shows you would be hard pushed to top Maddy Prior and the Carnival Band with their Carols & Capers show.

With the band playing instruments which are not only unusual but have been specially made, some recreated from old drawings, and playing music, some of which is hundreds of years old, you have a good show without anything else. But throw in the unmistakable voice and presence of Maddy Prior and a choir with at least 50 voices and you have a festive display which is both, rich, diverse and incredibly impressive.

When she was not singing or taking a back seat to the Carnival Band, Prior expressively swished around the stage in flowing skirts to the music which was diverse, complex and thoroughly enjoyable.

There were tunes straight out of the middle ages, traditional carols such as God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and not so traditional such as A Boy Was Born In Bethlehem.

There was tinsel-a-plenty and festive tunes from Europe and even one with animal masks and impersonations. All in all it was a night of great music and spectacle which keeps the musical traditions of the UK alive.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS

Rusby's mug full of festivities

Kate Rusby Symphony Hall, Birmingham

LOOKING like a Christmas humbug in her black and white hooped dress and with obligatory tea mug in hand she greeted the assembled Birmingham audience with a massive 'ello!

She then launched into the first of her Christmas songs with Here We Come a Wassailing.

If you have seen Rusby's Christmas show before then you know it's pretty much the same format as the previous year but of course this time there were a few songs from her latest album Ghost thrown in.

With her assembled band which includes hubby Damian O'Kane and a small, but impressive, brass section she sang a mixture of traditional carols such as Joy To The World, Little Town of Bethlehem, Diadem and various versions of While Shepherds Watch.

Rusbyinfects you with her enthusiasm for the season and no matter how many times you see her you leave her show full of Christmas cheer.

DF

Harmonising – Jersey Boys line-up

Oh, What a Night at musical rollercoaster

Jersey Boys Alexandra Theatre

IT was fast and furious and I loved it – as did the packed Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham.

This Jersey Boys rollercoaster took you on a wonderful journey as it told the story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented their unique sound, and sold 175 million records.

Featuring hit after hit including Beggin', Oh, What a Night, Sherry, Walk Like a Man, Bye Bye Baby and many more, Jersey Boys is a story full of heart, humour, and most importantly fantastic music.

Tim Driesen as Frankie Valli certainly has the voice for it. All telling their own stories throughout the show the four together – Sam Ferriday as Bob Gaudio, Lewis Griffiths as Nick Massi and Stephen Webb as Tommy DeVito – harmonised beautifully, almost bringing the audience to their feet just a third of the way through and of course up and dancing by the end.

This show runs until January 4. As a festive treat this is real gift.

Sue Attwater

Magic and Christmas anarchy

The Magical Christmas Tree Tour Newhampton Folk Club, Newhampton Inn

IT seems you can have anarchy at Christmas and still enjoy yourself and to prove the point Pete Morton, Emily Sanders and Chris Parkinson brought their show to the upper room of the Newhampton Inn, Whitmore Reans.

With clog dancing, Chaucerian rock 'n' roll, upside down, broom and eccentric dancing along with a rather world weary Christmas tree guiding proceedings, it all got a little merry and at times surreal.

But Morton on guitar and vocals, Sanders on fiddle and vocals and Parkinson on a variety of instruments, vocals and Father Jack impersonations brought a really manic sense of fun to proceedings.

Add to this, Parkinson slipping in all sorts of instrumental jokes while sitting in the corner on his piano accordion like a naughty schoolboy and it was a great way to go into the winter night with a smile on your face.

DF

Nearly everything in stock for **immediate delivery!**

Save £210!

upto **50% OFF!**

Sofas | Dining | Beds

sale starts **Boxing Day at 9am!**

PANACHE COLLECTION
DUBLIN 4'6" BEDFRAME
The Dublin fully upholstered fabric bedframe will add an elegant look to any bedroom.

Dublin was ~~£299~~ now **£89**

In Stock for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

AS SEEN ON TV

7 day SALE

Our biggest ever **7 day sale** event starts Friday 26th December!

In Stock for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
Panache Collection
Nickel 4'6" Double Frame
Nickel was ~~£399~~ now **£199**

In Stock for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
Panache Collection
LeMont 4'6" Double Frame
LeMont was ~~£779~~ now **£389**

In Stock for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
4 door 2 mirror wardrobe
Omega was ~~£399~~ now **£229**

ncf
furnishing your home...

NCF Perry Barr, 2-6 Kingstanding Road, Perry Barr, B44 8AA ✆: **0121 356 7022**

NCF Cannock, Green Lane, Cannock, WS11 0JJ ✆: **01543 570 759**

NCF Burton on Trent, Centrum East Retail Park, Eighth Av, DE14 2WG ✆: **01283 740 019**

NCF High Gate, 1 John Kempe Way, High Gate, B12 0HU ✆: **0121 772 4659**

see our new look website: **www.ncffurnishings.co.uk**

Store opening times: **Please go online to see individual store times**

Offers are subject to availability, images show are for illustration purposes only.

buy with confidence established for **over 30 years!**

Major Singh Kheela - "THE POWER" behind the Great Bridge pub THE LOUNGE BAR

The lounge bar public house has been at the heart of the Great Bridge community since 1837. Formally known as The Limerick, this listed building has served local industries, market traders, and store holders for many years.

Former weight lifter Major Singh Kheela decided to buy the building and invest a lot of money in both the building and the local area, to ensure that this famous landmark remained as the hub for the local community for many years to come. Since taking over the building Mr singh has seen the fortunes of the pub go from strength to strength, with feedback from the regular customers singing his praise for turning the pub around and making it a very welcome place to visit for families and their friends.

The atmosphere is greatly improved on match days as The Lounge Bar is well known for being a sporting venue, showing all Premiership games on their array of widescreen TVs in high definition, surround sound, where locals can enjoy a great value drink, a complimentary samosa and watch their favourite football team in action.

Weddings and Parties

Another string to the bow for the Lounge Bar is the availability of business conference facilities and the large function room can also be used to cater for weddings and parties.

Having arrived from India in 1965 with no formal education, and not able to speak English, Major Singh attended a local school in Smethwick, worked hard and is now one of the most successful business men in the West Midlands. He left school a year earlier than he should as he was keen to get out into the working world beginning as a foundry worker at Midland Die casting in West Bromwich and then eventually setting up his own market stall. After expansion he was in a position to run many stalls and even had twenty staff working for him at one stage.

Moving into the pub trade some years later, Major's first pub was The Shakespeare in the early 1980's and then bought The Limerick in 1994 when it was in disrepute, and has since added to the great success of this traditional market pub.

Known as "THE POWER", Major started taking an interest in weightlifting in the 1980's and has competed in various championships throughout the West Midlands, culminating in his "personal best" in 1986 lifting 185kg in the "clean and jerk".

Complimentary Buffet

On the 23rd January 2015, Major Singh Kheela is going to celebrate his 65th birthday. He is looking forward to seeing his regular customers and locals to join him for a complimentary buffet on the evening, and with a glint in his eye says "although I am turning 65, I have no intention of retiring just yet!"

The Lounge Bar & Function Suite

BT Sport

HD MULTI SCREEN LED T.V'S

ALL LIVE SPORT GAMES SHOWN HERE • WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT WITH HD MUSIC SYSTEM

sky SPORTS

£2 PINT OF CARLING MON - THURS
£2.30 PINT OF CARLING FRI - SUN

FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.
GREAT WEST BROMWICH ALBION PUB

SUPERB FUNCTION SUITE
HOLDS UP TO 200 PEOPLE
ALL OCCASIONS CATERED FOR, PARTIES, WEDDINGS, BUSINESS CONFERENCES.
CATERING AND ENTERTAINMENT AVAILABLE

Fully Licensed 'til 2am

The Lounge Bar

Presents an evening with

WEST BROM
Super Bob Taylor

17th January 2015

KICK OFF 5pm

Free Entry
Complementary food available £2.30 pint of carling...

5 MARKET PLACE,
GREAT BRIDGE
0121 557 6506
07925 154856
theloungebar@hotmail.com

Nearly everything in stock for **immediate fitting or cash and carry!**

save upto

50% OFF!

on selected carpets & laminate flooring

Savings start **Boxing Day!**

Bleach cleanable Saxony
in 10 stunning colours
now £5.99
per square yard
was £9.99 per sq yd

Save £4.00!
per square yard

BLEACH CLEANABLE SAXONY CARPET COLLECTION
Luxury, bleach cleanable saxony available in 10 stunning colours. Manufactured to an extremely high quality makes this carpet perfect for heavy domestic use.

Vitality Laminate Flooring
Very easy click, 9 colours, 15 year warranty
£5.88 per square metre was £9.99

Wilton Royal
New forest 38oz 80% wool twist carpet
£8.99 per square yard was £12.99

Modern Naturals
Carpet Collection
£2.99 per square yard was £8.99

Panache Nickel
4'6" Double bedframe
£199 now half price! was £399

ncf
furnishing your home...

NCF Cape Hill
94 Cape Hill,
Smethwick, B66 4SG
✆: **0121 555 5427**

NCF Perry Barr
2-6 Kingstanding Road,
Perry Barr, B44 8AA
✆: **0121 356 7022**

HUGE savings!

see our new look website: **www.ncffurnishings.co.uk**

Offers are subject to availability, images show are for illustration purposes only.

Also Branches at: **Cannock, High Gate Birmingham and Kings Heath Birmingham**

buy with confidence
established for
over 30 years!

They also served — Sedgley Fire Watchers in front of The Limes in 1944

A wagon holds the Black Country's longest chain

War years — Sedgley Civic Defence General Services at The Limes in April 1945

War time Auxiliary Fire Service Volunteers at The Limes

Historians George Blackham and Martin Jones with Margaret Wenlock, a descendant of Eliza Tinsley

Glimpse into past at Black Country mansion

IT was Sedgley's own Downton Abbey – a mansion built for the family owners of an iron empire making everything from chains, anchors and nails.

Eliza and Thomas Tinsley, of the hugely successful Eliza Tinsley firm now based in Wednesbury, had The Limes built on the grounds of a former pub in Sedgley-Upper Gornal 163 years ago.

Over the years the building has been used by the Catholic Church, local councils and even became the headquarters of the Auxiliary Fire Service during the Second World War.

Thirty years afterEliza Tinsley died, the house was taken over by three other illustrious figures — Henry Fowler, an iron and coal master from Bilston, William Arthur Foster, a solicitor, and finally Eliza Gibbons, widow of John Lloyd Gibbons of Ellowes Hall.

MEMORY LANE

By Charlie Benton

After the turn of the 20th Century, it was used by the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham before being used as the

Fire watchers used the home's high tower to scan the neighbourhood to spot incendiaries dropped as markers by the Luftwaffe.

After the war, the home was used by Sedgley Urban District Council, then Dudley Metropolitan Council before being taken over by two private firms.

The house has now been converted into eight flats and now historians keen not to forget the building's proud history have unveiled an interpretation board telling its story.

One of the historians who gathered the information for the board, Martin Jones, said: "I am a parishioner of the nearby All Saints Church which is the church which Eliza Tinsley used to attend.

"I also used to pass the building every day whilst taking my children to school which was my only real association with the building.

"When I saw there were moves to restore it I made enquiries and started to compile the history of the building which is how I became involved."

Mr Jones was just one of many budding historians who contributed to the information board.

Converted

Although the building has now been converted into flats Mr Jones said he is pleased with it.

"I think the developers did a wonderful job," Mr Jones said. "Other than the demolition of the outbuildings to make room for some extra buildings, the building itself remains identical to the way it would have looked in Eliza Tinsley's day.

"It really is one of the last remaining important buildings in Sedgley and I think it is wonderful that it has been preserved for the future."

Eliza Tinsley - matriarch of the chain making iron master family

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEVINES

FURNITURE BEDS AND CARPETS

Sale starts 26th December
Boxing Day 10am prompt

ALL STOCKS MUST BE SOLD

FOR 3 DAYS ONLY
Don't hesitate, these offers and prices will never be repeated!!!

save up to 60%

Friday 26th December	Saturday 27th December	Sunday 28th December
10am - 5pm	9am - 6pm	10.30am - 5pm

THIS IS OUR BIGGEST SALE EVER!! EXTRA DISCOUNT OFF OUR ALREADY LOW SALE PRICES FOR THE FIRST 3 DAYS ONLY

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
Minnesota All Reclining 3 Str + 2 Str Leather Sofas
One Set Only per store
Quick Delivery Only **£699**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
Subito 1.8m Oak & White Effect Slider
German Quality. Easy Home Assembly
Quick Delivery Only **£249**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
Full Double Size Ortho 'Diamond' Quality Mattress
Micro Quilted Cover One Only
Quick Delivery Only **£49**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
A Genuine Full Leather Full Electric Motion Reclining Armchair *SAVE 60%*
Quick Delivery 1 Only **£299**

Superb Value Mattresses
Single Size £29
Double Size £59
King Size £79

Deluxe Medium Firm Mattresses
Single Size £59
Double Size £89
King Size £109

Luxury Memory Foam Mattresses
Single Size £95
Double Size £119
King Size £169

Luxury Pocket Mattresses
Single Size £139
Double Size £189
King Size £229

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 4 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Prado double size frame and mattress
£139

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 4 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Tetras double size Silver/ Beech frame and mattress
£169

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 4 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Fushion double size ottoman storage frame and mattress
£249

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 4 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Atlanta single size Silver style frame and mattress
£99

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 2 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Milos 4 door robe 6ft wide x 7ft 4in - home assembly, Beech finish
£199

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 2 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Imperial 3 door slider 8ft 3in wide x 7ft 4in - home assembly, Beech finish
£499

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 2 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Manhattan 4 door combi 6ft 3in x 6ft 7in high - home assembly, Light Ash finish
£269

MEGA PRICEBUSTER
FIRST 2 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Sol triple solid pine robe, includes a free 3 drawer bedside table - home assembly
£249

BED PRICES SLASHED
FIRST 3 CUSTOMERS ONLY!!
The Pearl ortho double quality 4 drawer Divan
Save 50% off RRP
ONLY **£179**

BED PRICES SLASHED
FIRST 2 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Everest double memory foam/spring top quality Bed
Save 60% off RRP
ONLY **£189**

BED PRICES SLASHED
FIRST 4 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Majestic double 1000 pocket sprung top quality Bed. Save 60% off RRP
ONLY **£199**

BED PRICES SLASHED
FIRST 3 CUSTOMERS ONLY!
The Dreamland 3/4 size small Double Divan
Save 50% off RRP
ONLY **£149**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
A superb large 3 Seater Quality Lounge Settee
Ex display - Must Go
1 Only **£99**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
A lovely Oak/Walnut effect Dining Table + 4 Super Faux Leather Chairs Great Value
Quick Delivery **£249**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
A superb Relaxer Armchair + Matching Footstool in a heavy wear Brown Faux Leather
1 Only **£99**

MEGA DOOR BUSTER
Corona Compact Table and 4 matching Chairs in solid distressed Pine
Easy Home Assembly **£139**

LEVINES
Oakfield House, Level Street,
Brierley Hill 01384 79393
(next to the Copthorne Hotel)

LEVINES
583 Bearwood Road, Bearwood
B66 4BH
0121 420 2991

LEVINES
837 Warwick Road, Tysley,
Birmingham B11 2EL
0121 707 5545

Customer service key to success

Exceptionally well-made, stylish comfy sofas

In stock, a fantastic range of leather sofas from Italy

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

CUSTOMER care is key to the success of the Sofa Factory Outlet, so it's no wonder that an increasing number of people are making it their first port of call.

Visit their showrooms in Thomas Street, Wolverhampton and you'll find the best value, high quality, beautiful and comfortable sofas combined with the best customer service in the industry.

The company have recently started to stock a fantastic range of leather sofas from Italy which complements their existing hand-made sofas that are manufactured locally in the Black Country by skilled craftsmen and guaranteed for up to 10 years.

The combination of both ranges will ensure that you will be able to choose a sofa that's perfect for you. Every order is tailored to suit the customers' requirements in what is truly a bespoke service from conception to completion.

In addition, the company's "Price Promise" is your assurance that wherever you go, you won't beat The Sofa Factory Outlet on price and furthermore no money changes hands until the job is completed, yet another guarantee that the customer is getting exactly what is specified.

Unrivalled

The team at the Sofa Factory Outlet really understands how difficult the process of choosing a new sofa can be, so they go out of their way to provide you with all the help you'll need to make sure you get exactly what you want.

Their 20 years' experience in helping people to make the right choice combined with their unrivalled customer service, means you'll be glad you chose them.

The factory outlet shop in Thomas Street is a veritable Aladdin's Cave of sofas with a huge range of styles, sizes and fabrics to choose from – and if one of them is 'nearly' right for you, their 'made to measure' service means they can alter the size, proportions and cushion filling until it is just perfect for your needs.

Sofa Factory Outlet's Thomas Street showrooms in Wolverhampton

Here are 10 good reasons to choose The Sofa Factory:

1. Exceptionally well made, stylish comfy sofas
2. Great value – a fraction of the price of similar high street sofas
3. Bespoke sofas, hand made for individual customers
4. Beautiful, natural fabrics selected from top mills to keep costs down
5. More than 2,000 fabrics to choose from at no extra cost
6. Ten-year frame construction guarantee
7. All sofas are 'made to measure' and 'made to last'
8. Second to none delivery service
9. A 'won't be beaten on price' promise
10. Hand-made in the Black Country by skilled craftsmen and because they care and they love their customers

Don't just take their word for it though, check out the customer reviews on thebestofwolverhampton website.

Individual sofas, for individual needs

SALE Starts Boxing Day 10am

6 Easy Steps to Buy Your Made To Measure Sofa

1. Bring in your sizes
2. Select from 50 designs all available as corner sofas and bed sofas
3. Choose from over 2000 fabrics
4. Leave only a 10% deposit
5. Pay the balance on delivery
6. Save hundreds of pounds when buying direct from the manufactures

Excellent customer forums check us out ★★★★★ rated

Showroom:
Thomas Street,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands,
WV2 4JS

Sofa FACTORY OUTLET
"CUSTOM MADE SOFAS"

TEL. 01902-425-225

As Seen In thebestofwolverhampton

20 years of Quality Manufacturing

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

BEARWOOD & BLUE SKY CARS | STREETLINE REDLINE CARS | A2Z CARS CRYSTAL CARS

TAXI'S serving your local area...

A RELIABLE TAXI SERVICE

STREETLINE REDLINE CARS

TAXI

0121 420 4343
0121 552 4000
0121 541 2233

Wheelchair Access Vehicles

available 24hrs

Langley CARS

0121 552 9199

BOOK YOUR TAXI NOW

0121 552 9699

CALL BACK SERVICE

VISA MasterCard SWITCH

Driver required

to drive a company Private Hire Car,
Only Nights Available
Fixed WAGES Plus TIPS
(even when car is off the road)
With Sandwell Private hire licence
immediate start,
Without Private Hire licence we
can assist with application
for full details call Suky on
07989 565 041

FOR YOUR TAXI ON TIME

BEARWOOD & BLUE SKY CARS

0121 420 1122 or 0121 420 1111

VISA MasterCard SWITCH

serving your LOCAL AREA

CALL BACK SERVICE

Freephone: 0800 783 5696

CRYSTAL CARS

0121 525 8000
0121 580 0088
0121 West Bromwich

24 HOUR

FREEPHONE
0800 0086846

6/7/8 SEATERS AVAILABLE

VISA MasterCard SWITCH

WHEELCHAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE

Now all part of

HERITAGE CARS GROUP

www.heritagecarsgroup.com

HERITAGE CARS GROUP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yodel to create parking spaces

PARCEL delivery firm Yodel is looking to create more HGV parking spaces, under expansion plans which could lead to more jobs.

The firm, which has a main sorting centre on the Willenhall and Darlaston border, is looking to use land next to the site. It will see up to 105 spaces available for lorries at the firm which will help it to grow by enabling more trailers.

The land which is currently leased accommodates 70 parking spaces. However, this is due to expire will return to the control of the freehold owner.

The application for spaces on land between Owen Road and Willenhall Road has been lodged with Walsall Council. The Yodel campus as a whole employs around 280 staff.

Crowds not too good to be true

THE touring production of West End hit Jersey Boys has smashed box office sales records at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Bosses say it is the venue's most successful and highest selling festive show in its history.

More than 96 per cent of seats have been sold so far for the show, which tells the true story of 60s pop group Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, despite it only opening on December 9.

The sales beat the previous record set by Guys and Dolls eight years ago.

More than 40,000 people will have watched the 32 performances of Jersey Boy by the time its run ends on January 4.

Father of baby girl kept in 'dangerous' bedsit gets jail

AN ILLEGAL immigrant who allowed his eight-month-old daughter to live in a dangerous and unhealthy Smethwick bedsit has been locked up.

The 38-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, helped deliver the little girl himself and kept the birth secret from the authorities.

by John Scott

But police were alerted by other tenants at the multi-occupied address, which was split into bedsits, who were worried by the sound of crying coming from the loft on July 20. The baby had been living there for only four days, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "It was not suitable for anybody to live in, let alone a baby. It had bare brick work, potentially dangerous holes in the floor, bare mattresses and a baby's bottle lying on the dirty floor."

The mother of the child, whose three other children had each been taken into care, was also detained by police when they made the discovery, continued the prosecutor.

Mr Searle added: "The parents feared that their latest child would be taken away as well. There is no suggestion that the child was seriously ill but this was a protracted period of neglect in that the proper authorities had not been informed and nobody outside the immediate family knew of the child's existence."

The baby was taken into care after being found in the squalid conditions and will eventually be adopted.

She was in a 'relatively good state of health' when found but had not been immunised against any disease, explained Mr Searle.

Mr Shiva Misra, defending, said: "This man came into this country on the back of a lorry and whilst here he has been variously supported by friends, family and Sikh temples. He has also worked as a builder despite having no permission to do so. He had been working on the attic and was living in it for a short time. He accepts that it was clearly not suitable for anybody to be residing in."

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted wilful neglect of a child and was jailed for 10 months by Judge John Warner. The defendant is likely to face deportation His partner was deemed unfit to plead and so a prosecution against her was discontinued.

Cody's design success on the cards

Cody Worrall with Head Teacher H McNeil, left and Roger Harris from the Chronicle's advertising department

THE winner of the Chronicle's Christmas card challenge has been chosen and Cody Worrall, aged 10, a Year 5 pupil at Harvills Hawthorn School in West Bromwich, was presented with a framed picture featuring his design.

The competition was in the October 31 edition of the Sandwell Chronicle, was aimed at Years 1 to 6 at Harvills which was chosen as the school to take part in the challenge this year.

Readers chose their favourite from a number of card designs which were printed in the newspaper and Cody's colourful reindeer picture received the most votes.

Sponsored by Oldbury-based furniture store Capricorn Interiors, the school received a £50 donation as part of the competition and Cody was also given 25 cards with his design on, to give to friends and family.

Sandwell Chronicle sales representative Roger Harris thanked the readers for getting involved in the contest and said that the standard of entries wasparticularly high this year.

Mike keeps cola to pop question

Mike Seggie, aged 28, proposes to Amie Killworth, 22

THE iconic Coca-Cola arrived in Birmingham recently and brought with it a bit of festive magic for one couple from Sandwell.

Mike Seggis, from Rowley Regis, took the opportunity to get down on one knee and propose to Amie Killworth, using the truck as a backdrop for the special moment at the Bullring.

Coca-Cola were instrumental in helping Mike pull off his Christmas plan, and provided a specially created 'marry me' sign, which was revealed at the exact moment Mike and Amie had their picture taken by the truck, which has signalled the arrival of Christmas for many people since 1995.

A choir helped out with a special rendition of Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You.

Much to the relief of both Mike and everybody watching, Amie said yes.

Amie said: "Mike proposing has made this year truly special – it is the best Christmas present I've ever had. Every time I see the advert now, I'll remember this special moment."

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band and how you want to travel*

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days
Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.95
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95
Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.95
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Opening Hours:
22nd - 23rd December - 9.30am - 6.00pm
24th December - 9.30am - 5.00pm
25th December - Closed
26th December 9.30am - 5pm 27th December - 9.30am - 6.00pm
28th December - 10.00am - 4.00pm
29th-31st December - 9.30am - 6.00pm
1st Jan 2015 - Closed
2nd - 3rd January 2015 - 9.30am - 6.00pm
4th January - 10.00am - 4.00pm

Latifs

www.latifs.co.uk

BOXING DAY OFFERS KNOCK OUT PRICES

Offers valid until 4th January 2015 (while stocks last)

Tate & Lyle Sugar
1 Kg
Price: 3 for £1
MAXIMUM 15 PURCHASES PER CUSTOMER
Boxing Day Only
SSSP: ~~89p each~~

DEAL OF THE DAY

Coca-Cola Fridge Pack -10 x 330ml
Price: £1.99
SSSP: ~~£4.99~~
MAXIMUM 8 PACKS PER CUSTOMER

Kaltun Madran Natural Spring Water
Pack of 12 x 500 ml
Price: 99p
SSSP: ~~£3.99~~

Cambridge Over Door Mirror
Dimensions:
13.4 x 49.6"/ 34 x 126cm
Available in Silver/Wooden/Black

Price: £4.99
SSSP: ~~£40.00~~

1200W Non-Oscillating Halogen Heater

Price: £5.99
SSSP: ~~£12.99~~

Stainless Steel Stockpot with Glass Lid
Available in Red/Green /Orange
Diameter: 25cm
Price: £1.99

SSSP: ~~£14.99~~

16 Piece Dinner Set
4 Dinner Plates, 4 Side Plates, 4 Bowls, 4 Mugs
Price: £6.99
SSSP: ~~£29.99~~

Frying Pan with glass lid
28cm: ~~Was £9.99~~ Now £4.99
30cm: ~~Was £10.99~~ Now £5.99
32cm: ~~Was £11.99~~ Now £6.99

Wok with glass lid
28cm: ~~Was £11.99~~ Now £5.99
30cm: ~~Was £12.99~~ Now £6.99
32cm: ~~Was £14.99~~ Now £7.99
34cm: ~~Was £16.99~~ Now £8.99

Set of 4 Luggage Sets
Four piece set of trolley cases comprising 32", 28", 24" and cabin sized 20" cases. Produced from heavy duty Polyester these light weight cases feature zipped front pocket, internal telescopic trolley system, padded grab handles, and are fully lined with packing restraints. Complete with locking zips and padlock.

Price: £29.99
Total Separate Selling Price: ~~£77.96~~
AVAILABLE IN BLACK, PURPLE, PINK & GREEN

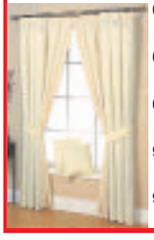
Designer De-Labelled Jeans

Price: £6.99 each
3 for £10.00
SSSP: ~~£89.99~~

Festival Soft Luxury Bathroom Tissue
9 Rolls
Price: £99p

SSSP: ~~£1.99~~

Jasmine Waldorf
Fully Lined Pencil Pleat Curtains Including Tie-Backs



66" x 54": ~~Was £39.99~~ Now £19.99
66" x 72": ~~Was £42.99~~ Now £21.49
66" x 90": ~~Was £44.99~~ Now £22.49
90" x 72": ~~Was £49.99~~ Now £24.99
90" x 90": ~~Was £59.99~~ Now £29.99

Jasmine Waldorf Jacquard Duvet Cover Set
Single: ~~Was £19.99~~ Now £9.99
Double: ~~Was £24.99~~ Now £12.49
King: ~~Was £29.99~~ Now £14.99
Super King: ~~Was £34.99~~ Now £17.49

Harris Collection Complete Set
Single 1 Duvet Cover, 1 Fitted Valance Sheet, 1 Pillow Case: ~~Was £7.99~~ Now £5.99
Double 1 Duvet Cover, 1 Fitted Valance Sheet, 2 Pillow Case: ~~Was £9.99~~ Now £6.99
King 1 Duvet Cover, 1 Fitted Valance Sheet, 2 Pillow Case: ~~Was £11.99~~ Now £7.99

Clothing 10% Off ACROSS THE RANGE

Kitchenware 10% Off ACROSS THE RANGE

Electricals 20% Off ACROSS THE RANGE

OPEN TO PUBLIC! NO MEMBERSHIP!

BIRMINGHAM
New Canal Street, Digbeth B5 5PL
0121 643 2822

STOKE-ON-TRENT
Waterloo Road, Burslem ST6 2QB
01782 815825

BILSTON
Loxdale Street, Wolverhampton WV14 0TP
01902 408 555

All Prices Includes VAT, and **Subject to availability*.
Pictures are for illustration purposes only
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers
Offers available in store only
Promotions not valid on www.latifs.co.uk

Public Health England

NHS

Pregnant?

The flu jab is free because you need it.

If you are pregnant, catching the flu could cause you serious complications, like pneumonia.

Ask your GP or pharmacist about the free flu jab now.

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Christmas TV

Choose the right care this winter

NHS
Sandwell and West Birmingham
Clinical Commissioning Group

1 Self-care
Treat yourself at home with a stocked up cupboard of medicine for minor injuries and illnesses like coughs and colds.

2 Local pharmacy
Provides confidential, expert advice and medical treatment for a range of common illnesses.

3 NHS 111
For advice on what healthcare you need for your injury or illness, call 111.

CALL 111 when it's less urgent than 999

4 Walk-in centres
For minor injuries, trips, falls and skin complaints. If you cannot wait for a GP appointment, use Parsonage Street and Summerfield walk-in centres, open 8am-8pm daily.

5 GP
Have an illness or injury that won't go away? Call your local GP surgery for advice on whether you need an appointment.

6 A&E or 999
A&E and 999 are only for the most serious and life-threatening health emergencies.

If you have an illness or minor injury, or need to see a GP out-of-hours this Christmas or New Year, walk-in centres across Sandwell and West Birmingham are open for longer

Sandwell and West Birmingham walk-in centres – open 8am-8pm, including Bank Holidays, unless specified

Summerfield GP and Urgent Care Centre
134 Heath Street, Winson Green, Birmingham, B18 7AL

Parsonage Street Walk-in Health Centre
West Bromwich, B71 4DL, extended opening hours 8am-midnight Christmas Day to Monday 29 December

Your GP surgery or local pharmacy may have extended opening hours during the festive period. Visit **www.choosewellmidlands.nhs.uk** to find out more, or call your GP surgery for information.

If you're not sure what treatment you need, call NHS 111 for advice.

Choose well.

Visit www.choosewellmidlands.nhs.uk

#Choosewell

UNDER NEW MANGERMENT
THE BRUNSWICK
ENTERTAINMENT ALL WEEKEND -
SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT
FROM 4.00PM TILL 7.30PM
FAMILIES WELCOME
From 16th December all week till Christmas
CHRISTMAS LUNCHES
3 courses £9.99 Bookings only
SUNDAY LUNCHES £4.99
301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, WS10 0QQ
LOUNGE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
CHRISTMAS PARTIES WELCOME

ALAN DAVIES TRAVEL
Telephone 0121 588 3399 Mobile 07831 415977 Fax 0121 588 6893
Queens Hotel, Paignton
Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February
Coach Travel, 2 Excursions,
HaLf Board Accommodation
Entertainment Each Evening
£180.00
Queens Hotel, Llandudno
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February
Great Britain Break
Monday, Wales with Tea & Bara Brith
Tuesday, Scotland with Tea & Shorties
Wednesday, England with Tea & Scones
Thurs, Ireland with Tea & Lucky Cake
All Afternoon teas are at 4.00pm
Also included Bingo & Entertainment each evening
Coach Travel, 2 Excursions, & Half Board Accommodation
All this for £185.00
141 Walsall Road, Stone Cross,
West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 3JD
www.alandaviestravel.co.uk

Collyer & McBride
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
We are an Independent family owned and run business who has proudly been serving families and the local community for over 100 years.
2 Hollyhedge House, Hollyhedge Road,
West Bromwich, B71 3AA
(100 yards from Sandwell Hospital)
0121 588 5377
Branches at:
West Bromwich Tel. 0121 588 5377
Handsworth Tel. 0121 554 0617
Perry Barr Tel. 0121 356 4489
24 Hour Service

FIREWOOD FOR SALE
MIXED WOOD LOGS IN BUILDERS BAG
£60 DELIVERED
HALF LOADS AVAILABLE
LAMBSWICK LOGS
CALL TODAY on
07505 030643

Christmas Day

Early View

BBC 1

Michael McIntyre's Very Christmassy Christmas Show, on at 10.40pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 The Gruffalo** (R) **9.30 On Angel Wings** (R) **10.00 Come and Join the Celebration** Traditional service from St George's Church in Leeds. **11.00 Only Fools and Horses** Christmas special from 1986. Rodney dates an aristocrat's daughter. (R) **12.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out** The animated heroes go to the moon. (R) **12.25 FILM: Gnomeo & Juliet (2011)** Animated comedy, with the voices of James McAvoy and Emily Blunt. ★★★ **1.40 Shaun the Sheep** The animals decorate the farmhouse for Christmas. (R) **1.50 BBC News;** Weather. **2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas** The year's most successful chart acts.

BBC 2

James May's Toy Stories: Action Man at the Speed of Sound, 5.10pm

6.00 FILM: Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. ★★★ **7.15 FILM: Short Circuit (1986)** Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. ★★★ **8.50 FILM: Pollyanna (1960)** Family drama, starring Hayley Mills. ★★★ **11.00 Carols from King's** (R) **12.15 To the Manor Born** Audrey takes Christmas very seriously. (R) **12.45 The Choir: New Military Wives** Part two of two. The women perform at the Royal Albert Hall. (R) **1.45 60 Years of Carols from King's** The history of the annual Christmas service broadcast. **2.45 Kiss Me, Kate at the Proms** A performance of Cole Porter's musical at the Royal Albert Hall.

ITV

David calls at the bistro to see Nick in Coronation Street, on at 8.00pm

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.25 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan** (R) **6.55 Sooty** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **7.20 Almost Naked Animals** Children's animation. (R) **7.40 Horrid Henry** (R) **7.55 Horrid Henry** (R) **8.10 Horrid Henry** (R) **8.25 Weekend at Christmas** New series. Aled Jones presents a festive edition of the chat show. **9.25 FILM: Valiant (2005)** Computer-animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor. ★★★ **10.55 FILM: Back to the Future (1985)** Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★★ **1.10 FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005)** Period fantasy, starring Emma Thompson. ★★★

Ch4

Sarah Millican, Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special, on at 9.00pm

6.00 FILM: The Ugly Duckling and Me (2006) ★★★ **7.30 Prep & Landing** (R) **7.55 Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice** (R) **8.20 Father Christmas** (R) **8.55 FILM: Animals United (2010)** ★★ **10.45 The Simpsons** (R) **11.15 The Simpsons** (R) **11.45 The Simpsons** (R) **12.15 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** Festive spin-off of the animated films, with the voice of John Leguizamo. (R) **12.45 The Snowman** Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' festive tale. (R) **1.20 The Snowman and the Snowdog** (R) **1.50 The Alternative Christmas Message 1.55 Channel 4 News Summary 2.05 FILM: Scrooged (1988)** Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. ★★★

Ch5

Justin Hawkins, Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.10 Access Showbiz news and gossip. **9.20 Andre Rieu: Christmas Around the World** A Christmas concert by the violinist, featuring sumptuously festive performances of White Christmas, Hallelujah and Jingle Bells. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. **10.20 FILM: Scrooge (1970)** A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness. ★★★ **12.35 The Sound of Music – Live!** A novice nun brings joy into the lives of seven children when she becomes their governess. Adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, starring Carrie Underwood. (R)

Prime Time

3.00 The Queen
3.10 Puss in Boots (2011) Premiere. Animated comedy spin-off, with the voice of Antonio Banderas. ★★★
4.40 BBC News; Weather.
5.00 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special Six previous contestants compete for the Christmas trophy.
6.15 Doctor Who
7.15 Miranda The hit sitcom returns for the final two episodes, which pick up where the last one left off, with the shop owner deciding whether to accept Gary or Mike's proposal.
7.50 Call the Midwife Chummy is asked to help out at a mother-and-baby home whose residents have little in the way of Christmas cheer, while Cynthia assists two former patients of a psychiatric hospital.
9.00 EastEnders Hour-long episode. Christmas Day gets off to a good start for the Carters but soon goes downhill when Sylvie arrives – and then Dean turns up. Cindy is alarmed by a suspicious gift.
10.05 Mrs Brown's Boys The first of two festive editions. Mrs Brown tries to work out what is inside a parcel addressed to Cathy and discovers Rory is planning to have plastic surgery.
10.40 Michael McIntyre's Very Christmassy Christmas Show An hour of festive entertainment, with Jamie Oliver, Rob Brydon, Barbara Windsor and Robbie Williams.
11.40 BBC News; Weather.
11.55 On Christmas Night Adjoa Andoh reflects on the implications of Jesus's birth for his mother.
12.00 Not Going Out Christmas Special (R) **12.45 Would I Lie to You? at Christmas** (R) **1.15 George Michael at the Palais Garnier, Paris** (R) **2.15 FILM: The Heartbreak Kid (2007)** ★★★ **4.05 Skiing Weatherview 4.10 BBC News**

5.00 Sign Zone: The Queen Her Majesty's annual address. (R)
5.10 James May's Toy Stories: Action Man at the Speed of Sound The Top Gear presenter attempts to propel an Action Man through the sound barrier.
6.15 Morecambe and Wise in Pieces: The Sketches Penelope Keith presents another edition of the occasional series, this time trawling the archives for bite-sized routines from the comedy duo's shows.
7.15 Christmas University Challenge Distinguished graduates of the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds compete, with novelist Philippa Gregory and football commentator Jacqui Oatley among the contestants.
7.45 Dad's Army Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar. Last in the series. (R)
8.30 Blackadder's Christmas Carol Kindly Victorian pushover Ebenezer Blackadder is visited by the Spirit of Christmas and gains an insight into the dastardly deeds of his ancestors. Starring Rowan Atkinson.
9.00 Tim Rice – A Life in Song A concert from London's Royal Festival Hall celebrating the work of the Oscar-winning lyricist, who also reminisces about his career, in the company of Michael Grade.
10.30 QI Christmas Stephen Fry hosts a festive edition of the comedy quiz, with Carrie Fisher, Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies.
11.00 Marvellous Fact-based feature-length comedy drama about the life of Neil Baldwin. Toby Jones stars. (R)
12.30 FILM: The Producers (2005) ★★★ **2.35 This Is BBC Two**

3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address.
3.10 The Queen's Garden Part one of two. Exploring Buckingham Palace Garden.
4.10 ITV News and Weather
4.20 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas Stop-motion animated adventure based on the film Elf.
5.20 New You've Been Framed! At Christmas A festive selection of funny clips, narrated by Harry Hill.
5.50 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The comedian helps out at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home over the festive period.
6.50 ITV News and Weather
7.00 Emmerdale Hour-long episode. Bernice and Robert threaten Andy and Katie's wedding day, Laurel takes in an unwelcome dinner guest, Lachlan leads Belle astray and Jai proposes to Megan.
8.00 Coronation Street Hour-long episode. Kylie is horrified when Callum turns up at her doorstep, Amy and Tony are taken aback by how much Steve has spent and Tracy grabs Tony under the mistletoe.
9.00 Downton Abbey Lord Sinderby invites the Crawleys to a grouse-shooting party at Brancaster Castle, but the butler has an axe to grind and a scandalous secret threatens to derail the holiday.
11.00 ITV News and Weather
11.15 You've Got to Love Christmas Jane Horrocks narrates a comic trawl through the TV archives, guiding viewers through the pitfalls and perils of the festive season, with contributions from famous faces. (R)
12.15 Christmas Carols on ITV A candlelit Christmas Eve carol service from St Mary's Church in Prestwich. (R) **1.15 FILM: Murder, She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle (2003)** Mystery, starring Angela Lansbury. ★★ **2.45 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

4.00 Big (1988) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★
6.00 Arthur Christmas (2011) Premiere. Santa's son tries to make sure a girl accidentally missed off his father's list gets her presents. Animated comedy, with the voices of James McAvoy and Jim Broadbent. ★★★
8.00 Frozen at Christmas The makers of Disney's Frozen, the most successful animated film of all time, talk about its creation and production, and the writing and performance of its most popular songs.
9.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special Festive fun with the comedian and Terry Wogan, Sarah Millican, Dan Stevens, Emma Willis and Gino D'Acampo. Sam Smith, George Ezra and McBusted provide the music. Last in the series.
11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel show, with guests Andrew Flintoff, Kevin Bridges and Roisin Conaty joining team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson. (R)
12.00 Father Ted Christmas Special Fathers Ted and Dougal endure their worst Christmas ever when they get lost in a lingerie department, leaving them in a highly embarrassing predicament. Festive edition from 1996. (R) **1.05 Father Ted** The priests go on holiday. (R) **1.35 Father Ted** The priests organise a raffle. (R) **2.00 Father Ted** Craggy Island's most famous religious relic is upgraded. (R) **2.30 FILM: Crazy Heart (2009)** A washed-up alcoholic country music star is granted a new lease of life when he falls for a journalist. Drama, starring an Oscar-winning Jeff Bridges, with Maggie Gyllenhaal. ★★★ **4.25 Secret Eaters** (R) **5.20 Small Animal Hospital** A horse with hoof problems visits the vets. (R) **5.50 FILM: Flicka (2006)** Family drama, with Alison Lohman. ★★★

3.25 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968) Children's musical adventure, starring Dick Van Dyke. ★★★
6.10 Michael Buble's Christmas Songbook The Canadian crooner sings Christmas classics and appears in a variety of comedy sketches, and is joined by Rod Stewart, Blake Shelton, Carly Rae Jepsen, Elmo and Oscar the Grouch. Part of the Sing-Along Christmas Day strand. (R)
7.05 Chas & Dave's Xmas Knees Up! Festive entertainment from 1982, with guests including Eric Clapton, Jimmy Cricket, Jim Davidson, Albert Lee and Lennie Peters joining the Cockney duo. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. (R)
8.00 Britain's Favourite Christmas Songs A countdown of songs guaranteed to make any Christmas party go with a swing, including classics by the Jackson 5, Jona Lewie, Band Aid, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, and Slade. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. (R)
11.05 Muriel's Wedding (1994) A downtrodden Abba-obsessed woman heads for the bright lights of Sydney to fulfil her dreams of the perfect wedding. Comedy, with Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths. Part of Sing-Along Christmas Day. ★★★
1.20 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** Ann Maurice visits Headcorn in Kent, where she and Tris Payne try to create the illusion of space in a tiny cottage for a couple who want to sell up before they have a baby. (R) **4.25 House Doctor** A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R) **4.50 Wildlife SOS** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** A property in Ashover Hay, Derbyshire. (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS**

Late View

Boxing Day

Early View

BBC 1

Nick says goodbye to his family in EastEnders, shown at 8.00pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 FILM: Pinocchio (1940)** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Dick Jones. ★★★★ **10.25 CBeebies Peter Pan** Musical adaptation of JM Barrie's tale. **11.05 Room on the Broom** (R) **11.30 FILM: Cool Runnings (1993)** Fact-based sporting comedy, starring John Candy. ★★★ **1.05 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 BBC Regional News and Weather 1.25 The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm** Comedy drama, starring Harry Hill as the absent-minded inventor. (R) **2.20 My Family Christmas Special** The Harpers celebrate Christmas 2039, with an 80-year-old Ben as grumpy as ever. (R)

BBC 2

Festive skits in Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas, 8.00pm

6.10 FILM: The Road to El Dorado (2000) Animated adventure, with the voices of Kenneth Branagh and Kevin Kline. ★★★ **7.30 FILM: College Road Trip (2008)** Family comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. ★ **8.50 Queen of Tigers: Natural World Special** Colin Stafford-Johnson films the life of tiger Machli in India. (R) **9.50 Ten Pieces 10.40 60 Years of Carols from King's** The history of the annual Christmas service broadcast. (R) **11.40 FILM: On the Town (1949)** Musical, starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. ★★★★ **1.15 Gene Kelly: Talking Pictures** A profile of actor and dancer Gene Kelly. (R) **1.50 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952)** Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly. ★★★★

ITV

Kermit the Frog features in A Christmas Cracker, shown at 8.00pm

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.20 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) **6.55 Sooty** (R) **7.05 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **7.20 Almost Naked Animals** (R) **7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **7.50 Super 4** (R) **8.10 Super 4** (R) **8.25 Weekend at Christmas 9.25 Dinner Date: Australia** (R) **10.25 Celebrity Squares** (R) **11.25 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas** (R) **12.30 ITV News and Weather 12.45 The Chase: Christmas Special** With Steve Pemberton, Paula Lane, Ben Miller and Mr Burton. Last in the series. (R) **1.45 FILM: Back to the Future Part II (1989)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox. ★★★

Ch4

Bear's Wild Weekend with Ben Stiller, shown at 8.00pm

7.25 The Bear Animation based on the Raymond Briggs tale. (R) **7.55 The Morning Line** Nick Luck and guests are at Kempton Park to preview today's races. **9.00 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard's mother visits. (R) **9.25 The Big Bang Theory** Leonard fails to get Sheldon into the Christmas mood. (R) **9.55 FILM: Inspector Gadget (1999)** Disney comedy adventure, starring Matthew Broderick. ★ **11.30 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008)** An elephant discovers a city on a speck of dust and vows to protect it, but the other animals think he has gone mad. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jim Carrey and Steve Carell. ★★★ **1.15 Channel 4 Racing** Clare Balding and Nick Luck present live coverage.

Ch5

Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special, shown at 9.25pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Access Showbiz news and gossip. **10.05 FILM: Carry On Constable (1960)** A staff shortage forces a police inspector to take on four bumbling new recruits, who only increase the crime rate. Comedy, starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Kenneth Connor. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (b/w) ★★★ **11.45 FILM: Carry On Teacher (1959)** A headmaster's hopes of landing a job at a better school are ruined by his naughty pupils, who do not want him to leave. Comedy, with Ted Ray, Kenneth Connor and Kenneth Williams. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (b/w) ★★★ **1.30 FILM: Carry On Nurse (1959)** Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams and Hattie Jacques. (b/w) ★★★

Prime Time

3.15 Monsters, Inc (2001) Two monsters try to get a little girl who has wandered into their world back home before anyone finds out. Pixar animated comedy, with the voices of John Goodman and Billy Crystal. ★★★

4.40 The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists! (2012) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Hugh Grant. ★★★

6.05 BBC News; Weather.

6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.

6.25 Still Open All Hours New series. David Jason returns as shopkeeper Granville, who is forced to take extra security precautions – causing him no end of discomfort. The next episode is on Sunday at 7.30pm.

6.55 The Boy in the Dress Family comedy based on David Walliams' children's book about a 12-year-old boy who shocks his family and friends when he starts cross-dressing.

8.00 EastEnders The fallout continues for the Carters as more lies are exposed, while Dot is heartbroken when Charlie hands Nick his ferry tickets and drives him away from Walford.

8.30 Avengers Assemble (2012) Premiere. Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk unite to defend Earth from an alien invasion. Superhero adventure, with Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth. ★★★★

10.40 BBC News

10.50 BBC Regional News and Weather; National Lottery Update

11.00 Match of the Day Highlights of the Boxing Day Premier League fixtures, which included Chelsea v West Ham United and Arsenal v Queens Park Rangers.

12.35 EastEnders (R) **3.30 Weather for the Week Ahead 3.35 BBC News**

3.30 Victoria Wood: That Musical We Made The comedienne presents a behind-the-scenes look at the film That Day We Sang which she wrote and directed, as well as the events that inspired the story.

4.30 Final Score Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League and Football League.

5.25 War Horse at the Proms The BBC Concert Orchestra is joined by Gareth Malone and the Military Wives for music and stories from the First World War, inspired by Michael Morpurgo's novel.

6.45 Christmas University Challenge Graduates of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and Balliol College, Oxford, compete. Doctor Who star Dan Starkey and and Liberal Democrat MP Alan Beith are among the contestants.

7.15 The Two Ronnies: Christmas Show Vintage comedy from Messrs Barker and Corbett. (R)

8.00 Victoria Wood's Midlife Christmas A festive special from 2009 that attempts to cram a night's Christmas viewing into an hour. Highlights include the Midlife Olympics, and costume drama Lark Pies to Cranchesterford. (R)

9.00 That Day We Sang A children's choir reunites in 1969 after a 40-year interval, prompting two members to reflect on their lives. Victoria Wood's musical drama, with Imelda Staunton and Michael Ball.

10.30 Hunky Dory (2011) Premiere. A teacher at a 1970s Welsh school persuades her students to stage a musical based on Shakespeare's The Tempest. Drama, with Minnie Driver. ★★★

12.15 FILM: The Winslow Boy (1999) Drama, with Nigel Hawthorne. ★★★ **1.55 This Is BBC Two**

3.45 Off Their Rockers Velma gets racy in a photo booth. (R)

4.15 Downton Abbey Lord Sinderby invites the Crawleys to a grouse-shooting party at Brancaster Castle, but the butler has an axe to grind and a scandalous secret threatens to derail the holiday. (R)

6.15 ITV News and Weather

6.30 Emmerdale Jai spots the man who sold him Archie and Megan wants to take action, knowing this is her only chance to find Rachel. Katie comes up with an idea to get Robert out of her life.

7.00 Coronation Street Hour-long episode. Gary has an unexpected encounter after trying to steal from the cafe till, and a drunk David makes a shock announcement in the Rovers.

8.00 A Christmas Cracker Bradley Walsh hosts a festive spectacular from the Hammersmith Apollo with a variety of guests, including Al Murray, Katherine Jenkins, the Muppets, the Vamps and Flawless.

9.00 Birds of a Feather New series. The hit sitcom begins its second series on ITV with a Christmas special. Dorien splashes out on a trip to the Canary Islands, taking Sharon and Tracey with her.

9.30 Through the Christmas Keyhole Keith Lemon noses around the homes of mystery celebrities and challenges the panel – Jonathan Ross, Louis Walsh and Kym Marsh – to work out their identities.

10.30 ITV News and Weather

10.45 Out of Sight (1998) A US Marshal pursues an escaped convict, but as the chase intensifies, so do their feelings for each other. Romantic crime drama, starring George Clooney. ★★★

12.50 Jackpot247 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen**

3.50 Turner & Hooch (1989) Family canine comedy, starring Tom Hanks. ★★★

5.50 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

6.00 The Simpsons Four tales celebrating the festive season. Bart hatches a plan to hold Santa Claus hostage, and Katy Perry leads the family in a rendition of The 39 Days of Christmas.

6.30 Hollyoaks Sinead's life hangs in the balance, while Ste and John Paul's future looks uncertain, and Nancy is left with a difficult decision to make.

7.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD Coulson and Whitehall's forces meet in an explosive confrontation that dramatically alters the fate of everyone involved, while Skye discovers some shocking secrets about her past.

8.00 Bear's Wild Weekend with Ben Stiller Survivalist Bear Grylls is partnered with actor and director Ben Stiller for a 48-hour, action-filled trek into the wilds of Scotland that pushes them to the limit. (R)

9.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2014 Richard Ayoade, David Mitchell, Mel B, Micky Flanagan, Sarah Millican and Kevin Bridges battle it out to see who knows the most about the past 12 months. Jimmy Carr hosts.

11.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special Festive fun with guests Terry Wogan, Sarah Millican, Dan Stevens, Emma Willis and Gino D'Acampo. Last in the series. (R)

1.05 FILM: Legend (1985) Fantasy adventure, with Tom Cruise. ★★ **2.45 FILM: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)** Western, starring Paul Newman. ★★★★ **4.35 Small Animal Hospital** (R) **5.00 Small Animal Hospital** (R) **5.25 FILM: Flicka 2 (2010)** Premiere. Family drama, starring Tammin Sursok. ★★★

3.15 The Ladykillers (1955) Ealing black comedy, starring Alec Guinness. ★★★★

5.00 A Shot in the Dark (1964) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers. ★★★

7.05 Rob Brydon Live A stand-up show recorded at Norwich's Theatre Royal during the comedian and actor's first UK tour in 2009, featuring comic tales, impressions, songs and anecdotes. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

8.00 Morecambe & Wise Live! 1973 The duo's performance at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon's Fairfield Halls in October 1973, which was the only one of their stage shows captured on film. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

9.25 Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special Festive edition of the comic magician's show from 1974, featuring music by Dana and Vic Damone and a guest appearance by French puppeteer Andre Tahon. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

10.25 Carry On Christmas The gang's first TV special, originally broadcast in 1969, which consists of sketches based on A Christmas Carol. With Sid James, Barbara Windsor and Frankie Howerd. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

11.30 Greatest Ever Carry On Films A rundown of the most memorable moments from the classic comedy film series, including flying bikinis, suggestive laughs and infamous catchphrases. Part of Best of British Comedy Day. (R)

12.35 FILM: Carry On Spying (1964) Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★★ **2.20 SuperCasino 3.10 Britain's Craziest Christmas Lights** (R) **4.00 Great Scientists** (R) **4.25 House Doctor** (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)

Late View

A plea at Christmas

Give a homeless dog a Christmas and New Year dinner for only

30p

• Donate by post

Dark Lane, Coven, Wolverhampton WV10 7PN

• Text

FEED 26 £3, £5, £7 or £10 to 70070

Text costs donation plus a standard rate message. Must get bill payer's permission.

• Call

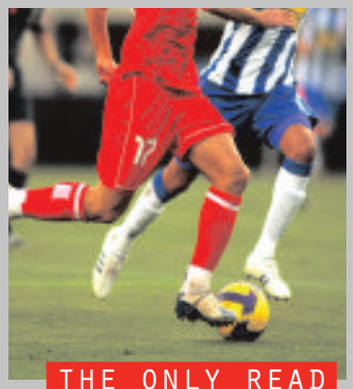
0121 643 5018 (option 3)

• Online

www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk

Sunnyside Kennels

score



THE ONLY READ
FOR REAL FANS
EVERY MONDAY

If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go – the Score supplement in the Express & Star. Packed with match reports, infographics and player reaction, Score offers the best football coverage around. With expert analysis from star pundits like Kevin Phillips, as well as graphics of the key moments, tables and stats, make sure you get your copy.

A real football read for real football fans.

TO ADVERTISE IN SCORE
CALL OUR EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM
ON 01902 313131

An Express & Star supplement **Express & Star**

SALE NOW ON
FREE DELIVERY TO ALL LOCAL AREAS
Cookers, Fridges and Washers at affordable prices
All major brands available

Gas, Electrical and Washer Fittings from £20.00
Call Now For Details of Current Stock
LANGLEY APPLIANCES LTD
14 Rood End Road, Oldbury B68 8SH
07512 977978

New Year's Eve

Early View

BBC 1

Queen + Adam Lambert Rock Big Ben Live, shown at 11.15pm

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. **9.00 FILM: The Cat in the Hat (2003)** Comedy fantasy, starring Mike Myers. ★★ **10.15 FILM: Eight Below (2006)** A blizzard forces an Antarctic guide to abandon his huskies, which must now rely on their pack instinct to survive. Disney adventure, starring Paul Walker and Bruce Greenwood. ★★★ **12.05 Bargain Hunt** (R) **12.50 BBC News 1.00 BBC Regional News;** Weather. **1.10 FILM: Ratatouille (2007)** Pixar animated comedy, with the voice of Patton Oswalt. ★★★★ **2.50 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens (2009)** Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. ★★★

BBC 2

Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special, shown at 10.50pm

6.10 Sign Zone: Secrets of the Castle with Ruth, Peter and Tom The team explores the construction of a castle's defences. (R) **7.10 Natural World: Empire of the Desert Ants** (R) **8.10 FILM: Saboteur (1942)** Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Robert Cummings. (b/w) ★★★ **9.55 Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures** (R) **10.35 FILM: Shadow of a Doubt (1943)** Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Joseph Cotten. (b/w) ★★★★ **12.20 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure** Dave Myers and Si King are entertained by a geisha in Kyoto. (R) **1.20 FILM: Becoming Jane (2006)** Romantic period drama, starring Anne Hathaway and James McAvoy. ★★★

ITV

Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This, shown at 10.00pm

6.00 Dinner Date Joel from Manchester picks three blind dates. (R) **7.00 Good Morning Britain** Sir David Attenborough chats to Kate Garraway about his new documentary series Conquest of the Skies. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences. (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R) **11.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Footballer Wes Brown plays host. (R) **12.25 All Star Family Fortunes** With Rav Wilding and Blythe Duff. (R) **1.10 ITV News and Weather 1.20 Secret Dealers** Items include a "grotesque" fish vase and a diamond cluster ring. (R) **2.20 The Queen's Garden** (R)

Ch4

The success of Disney's film, Frozen at Christmas, on at 8.00pm

6.20 How I Met Your Mother (R) **6.40 How I Met Your Mother** Britney Spears guest stars. (R) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (R) **7.30 FILM: The Valley of Gwangi (1969)** Fantasy Western, starring James Franciscus. ★★ **9.20 FILM: The Brady Bunch Movie (1995)** Comedy based on the 1970s sitcom, starring Shelley Long. ★★★ **11.00 The Big Bang Theory** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons** Bart is knocked down by Mr Burns' car. (R) **11.55 The Simpsons** Homer fears he has only 24 hours to live. (R) **12.25 FILM: Five Children and It (2004)** Children's fantasy, with Kenneth Branagh. ★★ **2.15 FILM: Home Alone 3 (1997)** Comedy sequel, starring Alex D Linz. ★★★

Ch5

The success of the Swedish group, The Abba Years, 12.00am

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 World's Strongest Man 2014 Action from the fourth and penultimate heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured three-time champion Zydrunas Savickas. (R) **11.10 FILM: Carry On Regardless (1961)** Seven bungling handymen have to prove they can hold down a job when their landlord tries to evict them. Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James, Charles Hawtrey and Kenneth Williams. (b/w) ★★ **1.00 FILM: The Vikings (1958)** A Norse warrior fights to claim the Northumbrian throne, unaware his rival for the crown is really his half-brother. Adventure, with Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh. ★★★★

Prime Time

4.15 Top of the Pops New Year's Eve Fearne Cotton and Reggie Yates review the year in music.
5.20 Pointless Celebrities A star-studded version of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R)
6.05 BBC News
6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
6.35 Celebrity Mastermind Steve Pemberton, Harry Shearer, Kate Thornton and Tony Law answer questions on subjects including the Coen brothers' films, George Michael and Second World War fighter aircraft.
7.05 Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchett. ★★★
9.00 Mapp and Lucia Miss Lucia introduces a series of musical evenings, although Mapp notices the locals are tiring of her bossy ways and is keen to encourage a revolt. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update
10.15 The Graham Norton Show Graham invites another line-up of A-list guests to huddle up on the sofa and help him welcome in the new year.
11.15 Queen + Adam Lambert Rock Big Ben Live Brian May and Roger Taylor join forces with Adam Lambert at the Central Hall in London's Westminster, bringing in the new year with a concert of Queen's greatest hits.
11.55 New Year's Eve Fireworks
12.10 Queen + Adam Lambert Rock Big Ben Live 12.30 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special (R) **1.10 John Bishop Live: Elvis Has Left the Building** (R) **2.20 FILM: Old School (2003)** ★★★ **3.50 Weather for the Week Ahead 3.55 BBC News**

3.10 Coast Australia (R)
4.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces Horticulturalist Monty Don helps amateur gardeners on the south coast of England and in Snowdonia who are battling the elements as they attempt to create idyllic outdoor spaces. (R)
5.00 Wild Brazil The animals look for breeding partners. Last in the series. (R)
6.00 Flog It! Catherine Southon and Mark Stacey locate interesting items at St Petroc's Church in Bodmin, Cornwall. (R)
7.00 Tigers About the House – What Happened Next First of a two-part programme catching up with zookeeper Giles Clark and the Sumatran tiger cubs he was hand-rearing in his home in the suburbs of Queensland.
8.00 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the first semi-final of the academic quiz's festive series. Jeremy Paxman hosts.
8.30 The Help (2011) Premiere. An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis. ★★★
10.50 Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special A selection of out-takes, quizzes and favourite clips. Last in the series.
11.20 Jools' Annual Hootenanny 2014 With Ronnie Spector, Ed Sheeran, Boz Scaggs, Paolo Nutini, Ellie Goulding, William Bell, Paloma Faith, Wilko Johnson, Joss Stone, Clean Bandit with Jess Glynne and Hayseed Dixie.
1.35 Glastonbury 2014 Highlights A selection of performances from the festival at Worthy Farm in Somerset. **3.40 This Is BBC Two**

3.25 Goldfinger (1964) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery. ★★★★
5.35 The Chase Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.45 ITV News and Weather
7.00 Emmerdale Samson finds one of Belle's pills and tells Zak and Lisa, Jimmy worries about Nicola when she heads straight back to work and Robert feels torn between Chrissie and Aaron.
7.30 Coronation Street Liz tells Steve he can borrow from the Rovers' account to pay his staff, David lets Michael move into No 8 after he is evicted and Gary apologises to Roy for breaking into the cafe.
8.00 Rita & Me Fifty years after Barbara Knox's first appearance on Coronation Street, this programme looks back on her character Rita's greatest moments on the cobbles.
9.00 A Funny Old Year 2014 Jason Manford presents this end-of-year comedy review show – a humorous celebration of the highs and lows of the past 12 months, from the brilliant to the infuriating.
10.00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This Biopic of the hugely popular comedian, who was in love with two women and unable to choose between them. Starring David Threlfall (Shameless), with Amanda Redman and Helen McCrory. (R)
11.55 ITV News and Weather and New Year's Bongs The headlines, followed by Big Ben.
12.10 FILM: Carry On Camping (1969) Two men hatch a plan to lure their unsuspecting girlfriends to a nudist camp and introduce them to a life of wild abandon. Bawdy comedy, starring Sid James. ★★★ **1.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **2.25 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

4.20 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) Stop-motion animated adventure, with the voice of George Clooney. ★★★
6.00 The Simpsons Lisa tries to make amends for cheating in an exam, but the school authorities turn a deaf ear to her confession that she bought the answers from Nelson. (R)
6.30 Hollyoaks Hour-long episode. A desperate Nancy puts herself in danger, while Joe decides he must find out the truth about Freddie, and Robbie stands up to his dad.
7.30 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
8.00 Frozen at Christmas The makers of Disney's Frozen, the most successful animated film of all time, talk about its creation and production, and the writing and performance of its most popular songs. (R)
9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Specstacular The comedian is joined by Jonathan Ross, Gok Wan, Alesha Dixon, Mark Wright, James Corden, Caroline Flack and Seann Walsh, with music by Tulisa Contostavlos and Professor Green.
11.05 50 Funniest Moments 2014 Famous faces help count down the year's top 50 hilarious incidents across the worlds of TV, music, sport, politics and the internet – most of them unintentional. (R)
12.40 C4's 30 Greatest Comedy Shows Celebrating some of the station's most impressive comedy series, exploring the impact shows including Father Ted, Spaced and The Inbetweeners have had on British TV. (R) **2.30 The IT Crowd** Moss and Roy display curious symptoms. (R) **2.55 The IT Crowd** Jen deals with a difficult builder. (R) **3.20 The IT Crowd** Roy and Moss revel in their masculinity. (R) **3.50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent** (R) **4.45 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures** (R) **4.55 Secret Eaters** (R) **5.50 How I Met Your Mother** (R)

3.10 The Dirty Dozen (1967) Second World War action adventure, with Lee Marvin. ★★★
6.05 Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special Festive edition of the comic magician's show from 1974, featuring music by Dana and Vic Damone and a guest appearance by French puppeteer Andre Tahon. (R)
7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away High Court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve and Ben Pinner face their biggest eviction yet, as they take on squatters in a large central London office block; (R) 5 News Update
8.00 World's Strongest Man 2014 Action from the fifth and final heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured defending champion Brian Shaw and Britain's Graham Hicks; 5 News at 9
9.00 Britain's Favourite Sitcoms Mel Giedroyc narrates a countdown of the nation's 50 best-loved TV comedies, as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in an online poll.
12.00 The Abba Years The success of the Swedish group, exploring the flamboyant outfits, hit records, successful spin-offs, marriages and break-ups. Featuring interviews with the band members. (R) **1.00 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 World's Strongest Man 2014** Action from the fourth and penultimate heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured three-time champion Zydrunas Savickas. (R) **4.00 Great Scientists** The life and legacy of Charles Darwin, one of the most controversial scientists of all time, whose theory of evolution caused a storm in Victorian society. (R) **4.25 Chinese Food in Minutes** Steamed wine sea bass and a spicy beef dish. (R) **4.30 Chinese Food in Minutes** Ching-He Huang teaches two rugby players to prepare oriental dishes. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)

New Year's Day

BBC 1

Gary Lineker presents Match of the Day, shown at 10.35pm

Early View

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. **9.00 FILM: Bee Movie (2007)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. ★★★ **10.25 FILM: Over the Hedge (2006)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Bruce Willis. ★★★ **11.40 Life Story: The Full Circle** Highlights of the natural history series. **12.45 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message** By the Most Rev Justin Welby. **12.50 BBC News 1.00 BBC Regional News;** Weather. **1.10 The Boy in the Dress** David Walliams' story about a youngster who wants to be different. (R) **2.10 FILM: Mary Poppins (1964)** Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews. ★★★★

Prime Time

4.25 The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn (2011) Premiere. A reporter goes on a globetrotting quest to find a sunken ship containing a pirate's lost treasure. Animated adventure, with the voices of Jamie Bell and Andy Serkis. ★★★

6.05 BBC News

6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.

6.30 Roald Dahl's Esio Trot Dustin Hoffman and Judi Dench star in this adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about retired bachelor Mr Hoppy, who hits upon a cunning plan to romance his neighbour Mrs Silver.

8.00 Miranda The very last episode of the hit sitcom sees the shopkeeper making one final attempt to accept herself and find contentment. Miranda Hart stars, with Patricia Hodge and Tom Ellis.

8.30 EastEnders Hour-long episode. After the drama of Christmas, the good folk of Walford turn their attention to the new year – and things get off to an explosive start.

9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys The second of two festive episodes. Agnes increases her home security after a spate of local burglaries, while Cathy is feeling broody, giving lovelorn Buster Brady an idea.

10.10 BBC News

10.25 BBC Regional News; Weather.

10.35 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea at White Hart Lane and Southampton v Arsenal at St Mary's Stadium.

Late View

12.10 Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga: Cheek to Cheek Live! The unlikely music duo take to the stage in New York. (R) **1.05 FILM: Road Trip (2000)** Comedy, starring Breckin Meyer, Tom Green and Seann William Scott. ★★ **2.35 Skiing Weatherview 2.40 BBC News**

BBC 2

Jeremy Paxman hosts Christmas University Challenge, 8.30pm

6.15 Sign Zone: The Great Interior Design Challenge (R) **7.15 Sign Zone: Close Calls: On Camera** (R) **7.45 Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures** (R) **8.30 FILM: The Lavender Hill Mob (1951)** (b/w) ★★★★ **9.50 FILM: A Hard Day's Night (1964)** (b/w) ★★★★ **11.15 New Year's Day Concert Live from Vienna** Coverage of the Vienna Philharmonic's traditional New Year's Day concert. **12.50 Snow Wolf Family and Me** Part one of two. Gordon Buchanan explores the lives and habits of Arctic wolves. (R) **1.50 Snow Wolf Family and Me** Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan follows the wolves as they hunt. (R) **2.50 FILM: Galaxy Quest (1999)** Sci-fi comedy, starring Tim Allen. ★★★

4.25 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message By the Most Rev Justin Welby. (R)

4.30 Final Score A round-up of this afternoon's football results.

5.30 Force 10 from Navarone (1978) A commando mission to destroy a bridge in the Balkans that is vital to the Nazis is jeopardised by a traitor. Second World War adventure sequel, with Harrison Ford and Robert Shaw. ★★

7.30 Tigers About the House – What Happened Next Part two of two. The Clarks see the harsh reality of tiger poaching in Indonesia, while Spot faces an operation that may end with him losing all vision.

8.30 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the second semi-final of the festive edition of the academic quiz. Jeremy Paxman hosts.

9.00 Quartet (2012) Premiere. Three former opera singers' plans for a fundraising concert for their retirement home are disrupted by a new arrival. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. ★★★

10.30 Julie Walters: A Life on Screen The actress chats about her career, from her beginnings in theatre through to her successes in TV and film. With contributions by Victoria Wood, Celia Imrie and Hugh Bonneville. (R)

11.30 Mock the Week New Year's Eve Special Dara O Briain presents a selection of out-takes, quizzes and favourite clips. Last in the series. (R)

12.05 FILM: Frenzy (1972) Thriller, starring Jon Finch. ★★★ **1.55 FILM: Stick It (2006)** Comedy, starring Missy Peregrym. ★★★ **3.35 This Is BBC Two**

ITV

New You've Been Framed! At Christmas, shown at 7.00pm

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.20 Pat & Stan** (R) **6.30 Dino Dan** (R) **6.55 Dino Dan** (R) **7.00 Canimals** (R) **7.10 Sooty** (R) **7.25 A Grizzly New Year's Tale** (R) **7.55 Super 4** (R) **8.10 Super 4** (R) **8.25 Dinner Date** Lucy from Surrey hopes to find love. (R) **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show 10.20 Judge Rinder** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R) **11.20 Who's Doing the Dishes?** Tricia Penrose plays host. (R) **12.25 All Star Family Fortunes** With Nadia Sawalha and Jane Cox. (R) **1.25 ITV News and Weather 1.35 Secret Dealers** The dealers bid on a Victorian silver-mounted scent bottle. **2.35 You've Been Framed!** Comedy clips, including a cat that refuses to be put down. (R)

3.05 Thunderball (1965) James Bond sets out to foil a plot by crime syndicate Spectre to detonate two nuclear warheads off the US coast. Spy adventure, with Sean Connery, Claudine Auger and Adolfo Celi. ★★★

5.45 Rita & Me Barbara Knox looks back on her 50-year career on Coronation Street. (R)

6.45 ITV News and Weather

7.00 New You've Been Framed! At Christmas Harry Hill narrates a festive selection of comedy clips, featuring a photo-bombing reindeer, an explosive chimney and a squirrel wrecking his neighbour's Christmas lights. (R)

7.30 Emmerdale Hour-long episode. Belle persuades Lachlan to try one of the pills, but he struggles with the effects and takes a turn for the worse. Harriet tells Finn she has news about his mum.

8.30 Birds of a Feather Sharon amazes the others with her high IQ, and Dorien, under pressure to find a heroine for her next book, decides to push her toward a surprising new career.

9.00 The Dark Knight (2008) Premiere. Batman is pushed to breaking point as criminal mastermind the Joker plunges Gotham City into chaos. Comic-book thriller sequel, with Christian Bale and Heath Ledger. ★★★★

11.55 ITV News and Weather

12.00 The Cube A Londoner hopes to win enough money to take his family to Australia, while a police officer from the West Midlands thinks she is tough enough to walk away with the jackpot. (R) **12.50 Jackpot247** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

Ch4

Alex Zane presents Rude Tube Welcome to 2015, shown at 10.30pm

6.15 FILM: The Three Worlds of Gulliver (1960) Fantasy adventure, starring Kerwin Mathews. ★★★ **7.55 FILM: The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958)** The wily sailor pits his wits against an evil magician to save a princess on an island inhabited by hideous monsters. Fantasy adventure, starring Kerwin Mathews and Kathryn Grant. ★★★ **9.45 The Big Bang Theory** Penny arranges a date for Raj. (R) **10.10 The Big Bang Theory** Sheldon's old adversary Wil Wheaton returns. (R) **10.40 The Simpsons** Marge recalls how she met Homer. (R) **11.10 FILM: The Last Mimzy (2007)** Children's fantasy, starring Chris O'Neil. ★★★ **1.00 Channel 4 Racing** Nick Luck presents live coverage of six races.

3.30 Guy Martin's Passion for Life Documentary following the life of the motorcycle racer and lorry mechanic. (R)

4.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

4.10 The Wizard of Oz (1939) A tornado whisks a girl off to a magical land where she embarks on a journey in search of the wizard who knows the way home. Musical fantasy, with Judy Garland and Ray Bolger. ★★★★

6.10 Sister Act (1992) A nightclub singer is sent to live in a convent for her own protection after agreeing to testify against a brutal gangster. Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg and Harvey Keitel. Edited for language. ★★★

8.00 Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) Premiere. A princess joins forces with the warrior sent to kill her to overthrow an evil queen. Fantasy adventure, starring Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron. Edited for violence. ★★★

10.30 Rude Tube Welcome to 2015 Alex Zane explores the 100 most popular internet videos of the past 12 months in a two-hour special, featuring the spider-dog prank.

12.35 FILM: The Godfather (1972) A crime boss entrusts control of his business to his three sons after an attempt is made on his life. Francis Ford Coppola's gangster drama, starring Marlon Brando. ★★★★ **3.30 Trans World Sport** Including a profile of wheelchair rugby in Australia, the Carolina-Duke US college basketball rivalry and an interview with Goran Ivanisevic. **4.30 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent** The property expert helps a couple on the Wirral whose five-bedroom semi looks like a student residence. (R) **5.25 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites** (R) **5.40 Small Animal Hospital** (R)

Ch5

Andy and Maggie Robin feature, Hercules the Human Bear, 7.30pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 Access Showbiz news and gossip. (R) **10.00 World's Strongest Man 2014** Action from the fifth and final heat at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured defending champion Brian Shaw and Britain's Graham Hicks. (R) **11.00 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Michael Redgrave. (b/w) ★★★★ **1.25 FILM: The Italian Job (1969)** A crook recruits a gang to steal $4million in gold bullion and make a quick getaway from central Turin in a fleet of Minis. Crime comedy, starring Michael Caine. ★★★★

3.30 Ben-Hur (1959) A Jewish prince is betrayed by his Roman friend and sold into slavery, but returns years later to seek revenge. Oscar-winning epic, starring Charlton Heston and Stephen Boyd. ★★★★

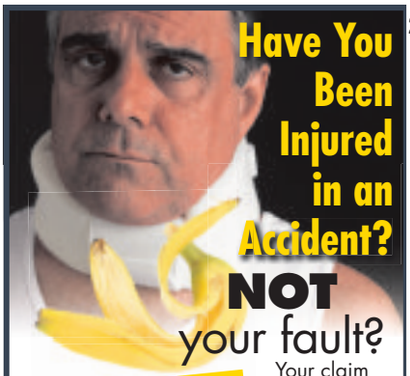
7.30 Hercules the Human Bear The story of Andy and Maggie Robin's 25-year relationship with a grizzly bear they bought as a cub from an Aviemore zoo, and which went on to become a star of TV and films. (R)

8.30 World's Strongest Man 2014 Action from the Grand Final at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles, which featured the 12 qualifiers from the five heats. Last in the series; 5 News Update

9.35 White Dee: What's All the Fuss About? Dee Kelly reveals how appearing on Benefits Street changed her life, leading to new-found fame and featuring public appearances, photoshoots, newspaper interviews and politics.

10.35 Celeb Big Brother: The Good, the Bad and the Unforgettable Emma Willis narrates a selection of memorable moments from the reality show, including George Galloway pretending to be a cat and Lionel Blair dressed in bondage gear.

12.35 Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring The comedian gives an insight into the highs and lows of his colourful personal and professional life, from hosting The Generation Game to appearing in Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **1.35 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 Wildlife SOS** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.20 Wildlife SOS** The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.45 House Doctor** Ann Maurice helps a couple sell their three-bedroom detached house. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** (R) **5.35 Wildlife SOS** (R)



Your claim will be handled by friendly specialist solicitors who are local to you.
NO WIN NO FEE
Middleton Dummer SOLICITORS
FREE HOME VISITS
0121 544 4788
Please contact:
Rob, Adam or Angela at
High Tree's House, 1-9 Pool Lane, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B69 4QX

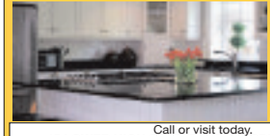
Are You Ready?
Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.
He says: Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
(Matt.:11:28)
For more, Call: 07903 180985 or 07949 559924
Visit: Forever Living Christ Ministries Int., 11-13 Walsall Street, West Bromwich B70 7NX
Email: services@flcm.org.uk www.flcm.org.uk
Service: 11.00am Sundays

B&D BLINDS

Vertical, Venetian, Awnings and Roller Blinds
- 12 Month Guarantee
- All made to measure - Supply and Fit
- Washable Blinds Available
- Friendly, Personal Service
- Full Range of Colours
0121 421 1000 • 07956 416016
153 CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY B68 0EL

Wonderland Day Nursery
All children 6 weeks to 5 years welcome
Childcare vouchers accepted
Free funded places for 2-5 year olds available.

0121 556 6222
57 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury WS10 7DF
www.wonderlanddaynursery.co.uk

wednesbury kitchens
Bathrooms & Bedrooms LTD

Friendly advise from a family run business with 35 years experience.
We offer a full range of services from free quote and design to installation central heating, building work, plastering and tiling
Call or visit today.
45 LOWER HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY WS10 7AQ
0121 505 3334
www.kitchenbathroombedrooms.com
Opening times: Monday-Friday: 9.30am-5.00pm
Closed: Thursday & Sunday Saturday: 9.30am-2.00pm
safe

Probably the only small pets and animals motel in town
- Small Pets Motel
- Pet food and supplies sold
- Small friendly family business
Tip E Toes
0770 108 4934
Unit 8, Dudley Port Business Centre, Dudley Port DY4 7RQ

We wish you a... Merry Christmas

All of our clients on this feature page, wish all of their customers a Very Merry Christmas

COPES POTATOES
11 New Street, Smethwick B66 2AJ
0121 558 5089

MIDLAND ACCIDENT CLAIMS
0121 429 9912
07527 787050

GPS CONSTRUCTION LTD
0121 588 2740
07956 888611
www.gpsconstructions.com

PLUMBMASTER
6 Genners Lane, Bartley Green B32 3JL
0121 475 1112

FLORA FABRICATIONS
64 High Street, West Bromwich B70 6JT
0121 553 4116

A TATTOO BY TOMO
107 Three Shires Oak Road, Smethwick B67 5BT
0121 429 1566

THE KNIGHTS QUEST
126 High Street, Rowley Regis B65 0EE
0121 561 5599

CTS AUTOS
Bilport Lane, Holloway Bank, Wednesbury WS10 0NT
0121 556 2500

CALTOURS OF BIRMINGHAM LTD
2 Warrens End, Birmingham B38 9QD
0121 459 7524

THE VINE
152 Roebuck Street, West Bromwich B70 6RD
0121 553 2866

SUKI'S BAR & INDIAN RESTAURANT
248 Walsall Road, Darlaston WS10 9SN
0121 568 8001

THE ROYAL FISH BAR
197 Stourbridge Road, Halesowen
'Winner of Best Chips in Halesowen 2013'

HASBURY WINDOWS
9 Halesowen Road, Halesowen
0121 421 7001
It's the best time of year to fit new windows

CAPRICORN INTERIORS
33 Birmingham Street, Oldbury B69 4DY
0121 544 4449

UK GRANITE.COM SOLUTIONS LTD
2 Hawkins Street, West Bromwich B70 0QR
0800 7720112

BOWKETTS BUTCHERS
686 Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury B68 8DB
0121 552 1210

FRYDAY'S FISH AND CHIPS
Shop 1, Whitehall Road, Tipton DY4 7EX
0121 520 6958

DISSIE DAISES
1 Corngreaves Road, Corngreaves Works, Cradley Heath B64 7DA
01384 639672
20% off 2015 bookings

ALISON'S FLORIST
211 Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath
01384 410913

BARKING GLAD
6 Wassell Grove, Halesowen B63 4JU
0121 550 7446

SMB AUTO CENTRE
4a Chester Road, Cradley Heath B64 6AA
01384 380982

CAKE EMPORIUM
3 Hagley Road, Halesowen B63 4PU
0121 448 2494
Re-opens 3rd January 2015

THE LIGHTHOUSE
153 Coombs Road, Halesowen B62 8AF
0121 559 7952

SANDWELL DIESEL
Unit 3 Potters Lane, Wednesbury WS10 0AS
0121 556 1122

BRUNSWICK FISHBAR
299 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 0DX
0121 502 3140

CURL UP AND DYE
Moving from Portway Road, Rowley Regis to new premises 50 Parsons Hill, Oldbury B68 9BS on 5th January 2015
0121 544 3741

THE GAP CENTRE
Christian Youth & Community Centre Hargate Lane, West Bromwich B71 1PH
0121 525 4442

RSA BUILDERS
All general building work undertaken
Grange House, Brick Kiln Street, Tipton
0121 520 4020 / 07831 300321

GRAHAM EARDLEY
UKIP Prospective Parliamentary Candidate West Bromwich West
www.graham4westbromwest.com
Promoted by Mr D Jones on behalf of Mr G Eardley both of 10 Violet Croft, Tipton DY4 0DB

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES
24/7 365 Emergency Call Out
Free no obligation quotation
01384 213644
07733 226568

BATES TOOL HIRE LTD
•Hire •Sales •Service •Repairs
0121 552 4969
www.batestoolhire.co.uk

CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE GARDENS
Open April to September
01829 720383
www.cholmondeleycastle.com

INSTANT CASH 4 CLOTHES
07808 085919
www.oberonrecycling.co.uk
275 Bristnallhall Road, Oldbury B68 9NF

M J MOORE BUILDING SERVICES
07736 567974
All types of building work
No obligation quotation

EVA WHITE WINDOWS LTD
Windows, Doors, Conservatories
1A Bloomfield Road, Tipton DY4 9EU
0121 520 2828
www.evawhite.co.uk

CARE IN YOUR HOME
Tipton Homecare
www.tiptonhomecare.co.uk
0121 557 3649
07889 018517

AFFORDABLE WINDOWS & DOORS
07710 434223
01902 827879
WWW.WOLVERHAMPTONWINDOWS.CO.UK

PARTY PALACE
Cards, Gifts, Ribbon, Bows
07751 781994
44 Bridge Road, Tipton
www.partypalace.org.uk

DAISY BOWS
166 Toll End Road, Tipton DY4 0HD
0121 530 1697

AQUA CLEAN
Block paving, windows, tarmac, patios, gutter vacuuming
07791 095052

connells.co.uk

Thinking of Selling?

Call today to arrange your free market appraisal

Connells

Birmingham Road
West Bromwich £230,000

●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● A stunning 4 bedroom mid terrace property having many of its original features, offering 2 reception rooms, kitchen/diner, downstairs cloakroom, cellar, family bathroom, part double glazing, central heating (where specified),garage to the rear. EPC RATING F

Bustleholme Lane
West Bromwich £150,000

A traditional 3 bedroom semi detached property,offering 2 reception rooms,-fitted kitchen,family bathroom,off road parking, central heating, double glazing (where specified),NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING E

Tame Street
West Bromwich £134,950

A modern 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of downstairs cloakroom,kitchen,garage,through lounge,ensuite to master bedroom,family bathroom,central heating and double glazing (where specified), off road parking, garage. EPC RATING C

Graham Road
West Bromwich £114,950

A 3 bedroom semi detached properly situated in a Cul de Sac location within close proximity to West Bromwich town centre and Sandwell Hospital, offering 2 reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified),garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING E

Hadley Street
Oldbury £199,950

EPC RATING E - A spacious extended three bedroom detached property with TWO GARAGES and off road parking. VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE LEVEL OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER.

Old Park Lane
Oldbury £189,950

EPC RATING B - A well presented MODERN four bed semi detached property WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY to Langley Green train station, Langley Primary School and Junction 2 of the M5. The property comes with NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Chaddesley Close
Oldbury £110,000

EPC RATING C - A semi detached property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, ideal for FIRST TIME BUYER. Comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and a sizeable driveway. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Kellner Gardens
Oldbury £79,950

EPC RATING C - This first floor two bedroom flat is an IDEAL INVESTMENT or FIRST TIME BUYER purchase. Ideally LOCATED CLOSE TO Oldbury Town Centre and it's local amenities including bus, rail and motorway links.

Church Vale Mews
West Bromwich £99,900

Conveniently located for Sandwell Hospital and West Bromwich Town Centre, this modern style 3 bedroom mid terrace property offering part double glazing, central heating (where specified),lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, allocated parking to the rear. ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING D

Young Street
West Bromwich £95,000

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property briefly comprising of central heating,-double glazing, lounge (where specified),kitchen, downstairs bathroom, off road parking,enclosed rear garden, ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING D

Wolesley Road
West Bromwich £84,950

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property, offering 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen. family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING C

Mountbatten Close
West Bromwich £60,000

A beautifully presented and well maintained modern 1 bedroom ground floor flat located close to West Bromwich town centre, offering lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified) parking, communal gardens and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £90,000 for 9 Dimmocks Avenue, Coseley WV14 8YQ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 4-5 Stone Street, Dudley, DY1 1NS Tel 01384 214770 before exchange of contracts.

14 Mallard Drive, Oldbury, B69 4QY

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £45,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate is E

Rowley Regis
£94,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

EPC RATING C - ●NOTICE OF OFFER● Connells Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £90,000 for 205 Throne Road, Rowley Regis, B65 9LA. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 70-76 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4EB, Tel: 0121 552 2671 before exchange of contracts.

Mallard Drive
Oldbury £45,000

EPC RATING E - ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● A one bedroom ground floor flat with an allocated parking space and communal gardens, close to local amenities and main bus routes into the City Centre and surrounding areas. VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £99,950 for 12 Church Vale Mews, West Bromwich, West Midlands B71 4DS. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich B70 8NS on 0121 525 1177 prior to exchange of contracts.

Newells Drive
Tipton £114,950

A modern style three bedroom semi-detached property situated in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of, porch, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, central heating and double glazing (as specified) off road parking to the front and side. EPC rating TBA.

Marigold Crescent
Dudley £80,000

A THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED property having TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen, OFF ROAD PARKING bathroom. double glazing & central heating as specified, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating F.

99 St Georges Road, Dudley, DY2 8ES.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £46,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance rating is C.

The Broadway
Dudley £119,950

A three bedroom semi detached property, accommodation briefly comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, first floor landing having three bedrooms and bathroom, driveway giving off road parking, double glazing as specified, central heating. Energy Rating G.

Dimmocks Avenue
Coseley £101,950

An extended three bedroom traditional semi detached property having through lounge, kitchen, garage to the side and off road parking, loft room, double glazing and central heating where specified, rear garden. EPC Rating D.

Wrens Nest Road
Dudley £99,950

A three bedroom modern mid terrace property having lounge, kitchen, double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating C.

Rickman Drive
Birmingham £94,950

Connells are pleased to present this ground floor one bedroom apartment. Situated in the popular development of Park Central. The property comprises of open plan kitchen/living, one double bedroom, family bathroom and the added advantage of ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● EPC Rating C.

Tame Crossing
Wednesbury £180,000

A modern style four bedroom detached property benefiting from, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen, utility, master bedroom with en-suite, enclosed rear garden, garage and drive-way. EPC rating C.

Booth Road
Wednesbury £75,000

A three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking, double glazing (as specified) In need of some modernisation. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.

Brunswick Park Road
Wednesbury £85,000

A traditional two bedroom mid-terrace property benefits from, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility area, bathroom, stairs to loft area. No upward chain. EPC rating D.

Sedgley Mews, Hurst Lane
Tipton £69,950

A modern two bedroom ground floor apartment with no upward chain having lounge, kitchen, bathroom, allocated off road parking, double glazing as specified. EPC Rating B.

Cobham Road
Wednesbury £82,950

An ideal first time buyer or potential investment opportunity this three bedroom mid-terrace property benefits from, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, ground floor family bathroom, double glazing and central heating (as specified). NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C.

Rough Hay Road
Wednesbury £74,950

A three bedroom semi-detached property benefiting from NO UPWARD CHAIN and having, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, front and rear gardens, double glazing (as specified). In need of some modernisation. EPC Rating D.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mortgagees in possession are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £83,000 for 8 Wilson Road, Bilston WV14 9EN. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 81-83 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4EX Tel 01902 710170 before exchange of contracts or within 7 days whichever is sooner.

34 Claverley Drive, Warstones, Wolverhampton WV4 4QZ.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £105,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D.

Holyhead Road
Wednesbury £59,950

A one bedroom ground floor apartment close to Wednesbury town centre comprises of, one bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, lounge, double glazing and electric heating (as specified) allocated parking space. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating C.

61 Showell Road, Bushbury, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

NOTICE OF OFFER

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £72,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Connells, 81-83 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4EX Tel 01902 710170.

12 Newbury Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton WV10 6QF.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £109,950. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating E.

37 Ringwood Road, Wolverhampton WV10 9ER

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer for £70,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is E.

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, December 25, 2014

Moving forward together

Have you ever wondered what 'plant hire' actually means? Well it can mean the leasing of immense machines which handle the largest of engineering projects.

Titan Plant Hire in Bilston is a part of the Gill Group of companies. It specialises in supplying logistical support for all of the group, especially the large-scale projects carried out by the Gill Civil Engineering arm. This includes laying vast areas of concrete at airports and marine ports around the country. And transporting staff to and from project destinations.

Mark Woodward manages Titan Plant Hire and he has a busy schedule supporting the needs of such a large and diverse company. He explains the range of support provided: "We have a trouble-shooting and rapid response role within the Gill Group. Our main focus is to supply Gill Civil Engineering with plant, but that brings with it the need for maintenance schedules, operator's licences, tachograph recordings and other related regulatory activities to keep the business working.

"The range of jobs is immense and we operate across the UK.

Positive

"We have a fleet of trucks fitted with cranes and many personnel carriers to transport our staff, and these come from Greenhous Commercials in Willenhall with who we have a long and positive relationship."

"Greenhous DAF has supplied Titan with two 18T, one 12T and two 26T trucks fitted with new remote Hiab cranes which will make our loading and unloading operations faster and more efficient, and with new engine technology which produces lower emissions and better fuel economy of up to 20 per cent, we will reduce our company's carbon footprint."

Titan has a further two 26T and two 18T trucks on order for delivery this month. The order book for new work is very healthy, showing the signs of economic recovery are certainly tangible in terms of infrastructure construction.

Mark reflects on what he is looking for in the vehicles he purchases from Greenhous. "We need robust, reliable vehicles with a very good fuel economy and we get this with our fleet of DAF and Vauxhall vehicles. With the new fleet we will maximise the efficiency of our deliveries, but also improve the safety for pedestrians and our staff. The high level of customer service we get from the staff at Greenhous DAF is a major reason why we deal with the company"

'We need robust, reliable vehicles with a very good fuel economy'

Titan employs a lot of staff on projects and so it needs pick-ups, minibuses and vans to transport staff and tools around the country.

Its fleet is continually refreshed and it has around 20 Vauxhall vehicles at present provided through Greenhous Vauxhall Commercial in Willenhall.

Any logistical operator requires the best quality of service as well as excellent vehicles fit for purpose, hard-wearing, easily maintained and low on maintenance costs.

Titan Plant Hire Ltd has established a strong, trusting relationship with Greenhous Commercials laying the foundations for a strong and long-lasting partnership.

Brindley Cannock
Main A5
Staffordshire
WS11 1SH

01543 406744
www.brindleyvauxhall.co.uk

Brindley Wednesbury
57 Bridge Street
West Midlands
WS10 0AH

0121 696 4754
www.brindleyvauxhall.co.uk

VAUXHALL

^Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on Corsa Excite and Limited Edition; Astra 5dr / Sports Tourer Design, Tech Line and Tech Line GT; Mokka Tech Line; Zafira (classic) models or Ampera. £500 Free Fuel will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/freefuel or contact your local Retailer for details. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on eligible new vehicle orders from 27 December 2014 to 12 January 2015.

BRINDLEY

SALE

on all new and used cars

Starts 27th December

Visit **brindley.co.uk/sale**
for your nearest dealership and
to search our online offers

HONDA
HYUNDAI
KIA MOTORS
mazda
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
NISSAN
VOLVO
VAUXHALL

Brindley Garages – keeping the West Midlands motoring since 1931.

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Index

1 Family
2 Leisure Time
3 Home & Services
4 Pets & Animals
5 Business & Farming
6 Property
7 Jobs
8 Motoring
9 Local Information
10 Personals

FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**

VISIT:

www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Telephone line opening times over the festive period.

Monday, December 22	8.30am -5.30pm
Tuesday, December 23	8.30am – 5.30pm
Christmas Eve, Wed 24	8.30am till 2pm
Christmas Day, Thurs 25	Closed
Boxing Day, Friday 26	Closed
Saturday, December 27	Closed as normal
Monday, December 29	8.30am – 5.30pm
Tuesday, December 30	8.30am – 5.30pm
New Years Eve, Wed 31	8.30am till 2pm
New Years Day, Thurs 1	Closed
Friday, January 2	8.30am – 5.30pm
Saturday, January 3	Closed as normal

Please note that our deadlines will be subject to change considerably over the Christmas period. Please call 01902 317 878 for any further information.

funeral directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

Dignity — Caring Funeral Services
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

funeral services

Birmingham St Mary's your hospice

Birmingham St Mary's Hospice welcomes collections to support our vital work.
All donations will help us to care for more local families living with terminal illness
For more information on how to support your hospice, please go to **www.birminghamhospice.org.uk** or call
0121 472 1191
Reg. charity number: 503456

1 Family

education & tuition

CLOISTERS
SANDWELL TUTORS Est 1992
West Midlands Premier Agency
Home individual tutoring
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS
Protection of Children Act regulated and Police checked
Primary, 11+, SATS, Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg, etc.
0121 2124986
01902 671683
www.cloisterstutoring.co.uk
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

elderly & disabled

Acorn / Brooks Straight Stairlifts Wanted
Call: 07967 003600

AUTOCHAIR MINI HOIST Maximum 80 kilos load. Ideal for lifting scooters into back of car. Very good condition. **£250. WHEELCHAIR:** Folds up to fit in boot. Very good condition. **£35.** **Telephone 01543 674663.**

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com /bookanad

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

jewellery & watches

DIAMOND RING. Unused, white gold, ½ carat engagement ring, with certificate. Cost £2,500. £1,000 ono. 07885 516127.

PANDORA BRACELET. Gold and silver mixed. Full of charms. With packaging. Value £1,000, accept £500 ono. 07885 516127.

2 Leisure Time

bikes

MOUNTAIN BIKE 14" frame, double suspension, disc brakes, £100. 07973 847763.

SCOTT REFLEX 10 mountain bike hard tail, as new, unwanted gift. £250 ono. 01543 468597.

caravans wanted

ALL CARAVANS WANTED
Any Age or Condition
CASH
WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bob on 07787 833833

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com /bookanad

mind, body & soul

hair & beauty

UNISEX MOBILE HAIRDRESSER All areas covered. Over 10 years experience. Call 07792 868474.

3 Home & Services

furniture

BFC FURNITURE
MELTDOWN SALE STARTS BOXING DAY
Open 26th Dec till 4th Jan 10 till 6pm
HUGE SAVINGS

Single matts ..... from £19
Divan beds....Singles from £49 Doubles £69
Ortho matts ..Singles from £69 Doubles £99
Memory foam matts ..... from £99
Faux leather bed frames .....
doubles half price £89 .....
Ottoman bed frames ..... from £199
Bunk frames £99
Metal fashion bed frames ..... from £49

Recliner sofas MANY HALF PRICE

Leather and fabric chairs ..... from £29
Sofas ..... from £99
Suites ..... from £249

BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 7RG.
2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
OPEN 7 DAYS - MON-SAT 10-6. SUN 10-4.

OLD CHARM round extendable table and 4 chairs, quality set, bargain £500 ono. 07729 660894.

household appliances

A BIG DEAL NOW ON Cookers, fires, autos, fridge-freezer,built in ovens, hobbs, tumble dryers; Orders taken by phone, most credit cards accepted Past & Present 24-26 Church St Bilston (opposite Town Hall). Call: 01902 403770

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition, £90. Will deliver. 07810 250 705.

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent condition, £90. Will deliver. 07810 250 705.

in your garden

AT C B SHEDS & FENCING We supply/fit. Free quotes. Supply sleepers & decking 01922 720270.

BUDGET TREE SURGERY, hedge trimming. Drive, patio & path jet washing. Call Adam on 07936 882552 or 0121 5053558.

SPECIAL OFFERS
6X5 O/LAP £15 (inc vat)
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CAST IRON FIRES x 2, with surrounds, £350 for both. 07973 847763.

items wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • All silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory. • Military items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

kitchens & bathrooms

FITTED KITCHEN
Solid oak doors, 16 units. Includes built in double oven, hob and dishwasher, plus extractor and microwave.
£500.
01902 845314.

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

FAULTY TVS, LAPTOPS & PS2'S Bought for cash. Please telephone 07404 837309 for prices.

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

specialists at your service

carpentry & joinery

Collins
- Kitchen and fitted wardrobe Specialists
- Doors, floors and staircases
- All plastering projects catered for
- Domestic and Commercial
- Refurbishments

www.collinscarpentryandjoinery.co.uk
0121 531 0264 / 07903 234 137

C W DOORS
DOOR SUPPLIER AND FITTERS
SPECIAL OFFERS!
PVC Now Available
- 6 Panel white grained doors, supplied and fitted **£54.50** each
- 6x6 Panel pre-painted doors fully fitted for **£375** complete with handles
- **NEW!** 6x6 Panel pre-painted and plastic coated doors fully fitted only **£405!**
- External doors supplied and fitted from **£210**
- Fit only, Paint or Stain available
- Fire doors fitted
- Pine, oak, hardwood doors available

6 Internal Panel Doors Fully Fitted £299*
Freephone 0800 019 3376
07810122133 *Standard sizes apply

aerials

A1 RAPID AERIALS Plasma fitting, Sky repairs, same day service, free call out, 3 yr g'tee, oap discounts 07960 173589 or 0800 335 899.

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 aerial into 2 rooms £90
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130
Work Guaranteed
Same Day Service
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

cctv

RAPID SECURITY CCTV & alarms cameras, supplied and fitted, domestic and commercial, same day service, free call out. Call Robbi on 07960 173589 or 0800 335 899.

christmas trees/wreaths

CHRISTMAS TREES
•Nordmann Fir •Lodge Pole Pine
•Norway Spruce and Blue Spruce
All standing with Larch block under cover
Netting and delivery service available
Sale starts 27th Nov - Open 7 Days
Call: 0121 505 3558
The Old Garden Centre
Walsall Street, Wednesbury

driveways & patios

DRIVEWAYS & BLOCK PAVING at discount prices. Call MB Paving 0121 5201352/ 07977 327715.

gates

ALL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years experience in supplying gates and railings.Call: 07597 488290

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, All trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Ercol and Teak furniture wanted
Call now on:
01922 492007

painters / decorators

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING sevice by RC Decorating. Free competive quotes: 07773 025880.

C&D DECORATING Coving/ dado/ laminated flooring. Free quotes/ OAP discount. 07973 286288

MFR DECORATORS. Internal/exterior. No job too small. Sensible prices. Free quotes. 07837 826372.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
0800 587 0377 or 07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546 or 07899 635852.

roofing

AD ROOFING
Flat, main, chimney/gutter repairs
FREE QUOTES
01902 752161 / 07538 118034 24 hr
Approved

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

PREMIER ROOFING New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601or 07875 387445.

kitchens & bathrooms

db-maintenance.co.uk
Quality installations
Kitchens & Bathrooms / Disability Bathrooms
Free Quotes
BASED IN TIPTON
Call Dan on 0121 647 3585
SUPPLY AND FIT
Fully Project Managed

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
- AFFORDABLE SKIPS
- 2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
- LOCAL COMPANY
- RELIABLE AND FRIENDLY SERVICE

MONDAY-SATURDAY 7AM-6PM
01902 870370

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE LTD. Mini, midi, maxi, large skips. Fast, friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call: 0121 555 6060.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

PEDIGREE CHIHUAHUA Black Boy Puppy. Ready now. Telephone 07952 926466.

POODLE. Toy, female, slightly older, very loving, fully immunised. Genuine reason. 07801 659239.

YORKIE PUPPIES 8 weeks old, male and female, flead and wormed. £325.07543 970722.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

BTC PROPERTIES UNITS AND OFFICES TO LET

6,000 Sq Ft Yard
High St Tipton
1000 Sq Ft Unit Coseley

Offices also available.

Flexible terms
Call 01902 497696 or 07788 591679

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BRIERLY HILL 2-bed house, newly decorated, suit working or retired, £500pcm. 07585 429131.

HEDNESFORD Pye Green, 3 bed GCH semi,clean and tidy, £115pw. Telephone 07768 040127.

ONE AND THREE bed flats, Tipton, Dss considered. 07906 878175. 07961 301577.

ONE BED FLAT and bedsit, Tipton. DSS considered.
07961 301577 or 07906 878175.

WALSALL. Bedsit with own facilities, Rooms to let.
Telephone 07825 581676.

properties wanted

WE BUY HOUSES 4 CASH
In any condition
Call Now
0121 629 0456
www.midlandpropertybuyers.com

coast & country

CHALET FOR SALE, 6 berth, Clarach Bay holiday village, all amenities on site, £1,000 ono. 0121 293 2381 or 07773 573068.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

courses

TOP GEAR
Driver Training
- LGV / PCV Training
- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
- Free Assessments
- CPC Courses
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

0121 585 0834
www.topgear-lgv.com

BILLY THOMAS
HGV Driver Training
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
1-2-1 TRAINING
INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7hr blocks - Full 35hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

CRH Transport Training Train and Test at our centre in West Brom 0121 3231777 crhtraining.co.uk

NEED TO GET THE HOURS IN? CPC Driver Training. Contact QSP to book your course 0121 5652277

full time - general

BEDROOM FITTERS REQUIRED

starplan
expert bedroom furniture

Starplan are now recruiting bedroom fitters based at our warehouse in Wednesbury. Proof of professional fitting of bedrooms is essential, as well as being customer focused with a good attitude towards our company.

Starplan are one of the UK's most successful bedroom furniture companies selling direct to the public.

If you want to fit for a successful company then post or email your CV to:
The Personnel Manager, Starplan Furniture Ltd
Javelin Park, Wednesbury WS10 7ND
steveeaves@starplanbedrooms.com

WORKSHOP PRODUCTION MANAGER for PVC Window, Door & Conservatory manufacturer. Must have experience. Good salary, company car 0121 552 9777

building & construction

PLUMBERS AND HEATING ENGINEERS required. Experienced engineers required for sites in and around the West Midlands. Good rates / price work available. Must have CSCS card.
Please call us on 0121 350 9929 or email CV to
info@spectrumem.org.uk

dentistry

PRACTICE MANAGER required for a private dental surgery in Dudley. Must be experienced in all aspects of practice management and hold a GDC registration in dental nursing. Hours & salary negotiable. CV's in confidence to Jacqueline Burchell. northstreetdental@hotmail.co.uk

drivers

CLASS 2 EXPERIENCED Roll on Roll of Driver. £9.00 per hour (Basic 39 hours) Overtime available. No nights out. Not agency work. Tel: 0121 500 4901.

finance & accounting

BOOKKEEPER / ADMINISTRATOR (Oldbury). Approx 12hrspw, flexible, experience in Sage, sales & purchase ledger, bank reconciliations, VAT and CIS tax scheme, computer knowledge an advantage. Apply to:
accounts@sapphireair.co.uk

motor trade

WE ARE SEEKING an experienced mechanic. Must be able to carry out servicing and repairs on all makes of vehicles and work to a high standard. Salary up to £10ph depending on experience. Please call Shell 0121 420 3592

BIRMINGHAM	COVENTRY	TAMWORTH
21-22 FEBRUARY	18-19 MARCH	8-9 APRIL

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
Introduction to Phlebotomy
- TWO DAY ACCREDITED COURSES
- NATIONALLY RECOGNISED

HIGH DEMAND IN HOSPITALS, G.P. SURGERIES, COMMUNITY, PRIVATE SECTOR, MILITARY, ETC.

Book online or more info: **www.geopace.com**
No previous experience or qualifications required

ctt Central Transport Training
SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE
"QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"
FREE ASSESSMENTS • FREE THEORY TEST TRAINING
HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES.
DRIVER CPC COURSES &
TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT COURSES

CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR POP IN AND SEE US
01902 312800
www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A4 2.0 QUATTRO, 2005, 118k, 4wd, met blue, MoT Sept, fsh, alloys, abs, pas, alarm, full airbags. £3,300 ono. 07776 147108.

FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1.2
Petrol, 04, 5-drs, blue, ABS, air bag, electric mirrors and windows, air con, FSH, alarm, New MoT, metallic paint, central locking, PAS, Alloys, CD, one owner, Superb.

£1,350.

Telephone 07724 629285.

FORD FOCUS 1.6, 2004, MoT'd, dark blue with leather trim.
£625
0121 502 1279.

HONDA ACCORD TOURER
2004, Estate, 141,000 miles, leather, metallic, MoT, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, stereo CD, alarm, towbar.
£1,600 ono.
07463 580858.

HONDA CRV
2008, 187,000 miles, grey, AC, FSH, alarm, long MoT, auto, one owner, cruise control, PAS, alloys, Navigation system, Leather interior,

£4,600.

01543 458100

HYUNDAI I10 1.2 CLASSIC
59 plate, 25,000 miles, blue, 9 months MoT, recent full service, one owner, good condition. Ideal first car.
£3,850.
01543 453013.

MERCEDES E430 1999, silver, 74,000 genuine miles, 12 months MoT, FSH, lovely condition, £1,350. 07970 992872.

SUZUKI JIMNY SZ4, 59 reg, black, 12000 miles, service history, 10 months MoT, looks new, £6,995. 01543 675063. 07939 161436.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

DAIHATSU TERIOS, 2002, 62,500 miles, silver, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, stereo, 4x4, excellent condition, £1,375 ono. 07971 199414.

FORD ESCORT ESTATE 1.6, W reg, MoT, alloys, towbar, roof rack, radio cassette, clean. £295.
01922 646406 or 07466 082028.

FORD GALAXY ZETEC,
7 seater people carrier, 2000 model, low miles, excellent condition, good MoT, used daily, all extras, cheapest ever
£795.
07825 361127.

HYUNDAI GETZ 1.0, 2004, 32k miles, red, electric windows, long MoT, good condition, £995 ono.
07761 532710.

HYUNDAI GETZ, 2004, 98,930 miles, black, MoT. 1.5 diesel. £1,100 ono. 07805 050539.

MERCEDES 190E
1992, silver, electric windows, long MoT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, stereo.
£1,250.
07717 208663.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 55 Reg, MoT April 2015, 140,000 miles, £850. 07448 950663.

TOYOTA YARIS Verso, 01, 46,500 miles, met dark red, 11 months MoT, very good condition. £1,125. 01922 479590/ 07957 742129.

VAUXHALL CORSA W reg, 1.2, metallic blue, 3dr, MoT till May, 61,000 miles, clean and tidy, £425 ono. 07514 081104.

commercial vehicles

ASTRA VAN X reg, 2001 diesel, 135,000 miles, good condition, £800. 01922 475392.

VAUXHALL COMBO VAN, MoT August, white, 2004, £1,000.
Telephone 07581 112596.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780250
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

SCRAPCARBUYERS.CO.UK
TOP PRICES PAID
0800 533 5139
0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

BJ CARS PAYS MORE
www.bjcars.co.uk
Scrap it legally, NO fines, NO comebacks.
All scrap cars/vans wanted
Best Prices!
01902 498542
01902 658792 EVE

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
01902 562853
07977 499516
07895 346811- 24 hrs

vehicle hire

BEST PRICE CAR + VAN HIRE Daily,Weekly, Call Practical 0121 556 1315 practical.co.uk

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars/vans. 07585 664389 / 07903 549849.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

V55 DMP
Personal Registration. On Retention Certificate Available immediately in time for Christmas.
£300 ono.
01785 664349.

spares/parts

BASTABLES CAR SPARES Batteries, 3 yr warrenty. Antifreeze/ coolant. All seasons screenwash. 0121 5522851 / 0121 5448858

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

GWENDOLINE BURKE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Beechcroft Residential Home Salop Drive Oldbury B68 9AG, who died on 05/10/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 27/02/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
NORTHWOOD BANKS & CO
1600-1602 Coventry Road Yardley
Birmingham B26 1AL T428098

MAUREEN ELIZABETH EVANS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 2 Grosvenor Road Oldbury West Midlands B68 8LG, who died on 08/10/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 27/02/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW T427838

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57688	Huf UK Ltd	HUF (UK) Limited Black Country New Road Tipton DY4 0PT	Proposed 3 No. interlinked steel frame storage warehouses.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57727	Mr Mark Horsley Mar City Homes Ltd	Former Atlas Metals Site Cranford Street Smethwick	Variation of condition 1 of planning permission DC/14/56797 – proposed substitution of house types.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

RONALD HERBERT FLANAGAN (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 61 Dibble Road Smethwick West Midlands B67 7PY, who died on 12/08/2014 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 27/02/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CHORUS LAW LTD
Heron House Timothy's Bridge Road
Stratford upon Avon CV37 9BX T427826

10 Personals

personal

DIAMOND HEARTS DATING AGENCY Call 07462 270299. www.diamondhearts-agency.co.uk

INDIAN GENTLEMAN
British born, 30 plus, WLTM female for days out/in, pubs, clubs and to enjoy holidays.
Box Number P19626 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

GENERAL HANDYMAN REQUIRED
Must be kind and caring.
Needed for around once a week for 2-3 hours per week.
For general work, gardening, help around the house, D.I.Y.
Box Number P19621, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

Place your items for sale with great offers from the Express & Star and *reach over half a million people**.

We don't have any hidden fees, expensive delivery charges or commission payments - just a great service, at great value for money enabling you to buy and sell locally.

Contact us today to place your advert

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878
ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10 .2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, **Sell** Local ClassifiedAds

Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!
- Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- Get up to 100% of the market value
- Free valuation. Free consultation
- 100% Confidential. No obligation

Fast Sale Maximum Value
The Property Ombudsman SALES
Yellow Springbok®
UP TO 100% PAID
SOLD
NO OBLIGATION FREE CONSULTATION
24/7 Helpline CALL NOW 0800 092 5743 01902 489 500
YellowSpringbok.co.uk

Local Specialists

Aerials

J. J. Digital Aerials
Installation of Digital, Freeview & Satellite
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE
AERIALS £55 - SATELLITE £65
SELF EMPLOYED EXPERT WHO YOU CAN TRUST
Friendly, reliable service
0121 5306785/ 07919 597626

LUKE'S LOCAL AERIALS
Sandwell
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
FREE QUOTES FIXED PRICES
0121 445 1382
Luke's Mobile: 07864 590543
NEW DIGITAL AERIAL + MAST + CABLE £69
DIGITAL AERIAL + CABLE to any room £59
NEW CABLE £39 REMOVE AERIAL £29
REPAIRS £39 TUNING £25
SATELLITE DISH Fitted £69 DISH REPAIRS £39
DIGITAL AERIAL To 2 Rooms JUST £80
3 Rooms JUST £100 4 Rooms JUST £120

Appliance Repairs

PD D Domestic
Specialising in repairs of washing machines, dishwashers, gas & electric cookers, hobs, microwaves, fridge freezers and cooker hoods etc.

0121 532 5965/ 07825 148338
pddomestics@hotmail.co.uk

Decorating

M&B PAINTING & DECORATORS
Over 25 years experience
NO JOB TOO SMALL
All quotes include white paint for woodwork and ceilings
For a FREE friendly quote
Call Mick on 07896054108 or Bart on 07825568581

Electricians

MB electric
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call :
0121 3690311
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

Blinds & Curtains

Quality IS affordable BLIND SALE

WHY USE US?
3 Vertical Blinds for £89 Fitted
3 Roller Blinds for £129 Fitted
20% off all Romans
50% off on Wood Venetians

WE OFFER
- Free Measurement
- Free Quotes
- Free Fitting
- Fast Local Service with appointments to suit you

BOOK YOUR FREE QUOTE
0800 9078631
0121 285 5155
Text 07707435964
QUEEN BLINDS
VIEW OUR FULL RANGE AT www.queenblinds.co.uk

Carpet & Upholstery cleaning

CLEANCARE
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners
Fully Trained, Insured
C.R.B. Registered Staff
Friendly Service
For Free Quotes
Tel: 0121 270 1998
07816 817744

decorators

RC Decorating
Professional Painting and Decorating Services
A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC DECORATING.
FREE competitive quotes:
07773 025 880
richard.crump@hotmail.co.uk
www.rcdecorating.co.uk

Driveways

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac
Drives • Paths • Patios
Slabbing • Red Tarmac
Car Parks
5 Year Guarantee On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

Electricians

ELECTRICIAN
Fully guaranteed work
Honest reliable service
ANT ELECTRIC
Ring Tony or Julie on
0121 422 3549
07974 428 603
'No Job Too Small'

Whitehouse Electrical & Sons
Professional and reliable service
- Complete Rewires
- Shower Installations
- Testing - Inspection
- Fuseboard Upgrades
- Domestic - Commercial
- Security Alarms
- Landlord Certs

FREE QUOTES - 24 HOUR CALLOUT
07766 105131
Florence Road, Tipton, DY4 0NR
www.whitehouseelectricalsons.co.uk
ELECSA Registered Company EPP31221
Part P Approved Installer

Fencing

T & D FENCING
LOW PRICES!
HIGH QUALITY FENCING PANELS, CLOSEBOARD PANELS AND GATES SUPPLIED ONLY OR SUPPLIED AND FITTED
OPEN TILL 1.00PM ON SATURDAYS
SUPPLIERS OF WOOD AND CONCRETE POSTS, GRAVEL BOARDS, TRELLIS
PLASTIC SLOTTED POSTS AND PLASTIC GRAVEL BOARDS AVAILABLE
FREE ESTIMATES - TRADE WELCOME
UNIT 405, SMETHWICK ENTERPRISE CENTRE, THE OLD FIRE STATION, ROLFE STREET, SMETHWICK
EST 1985
www.TandDfencing.co.uk
0121-565 4533

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD
*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
24/7 365 emergency callout service
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

kitchens and bathrooms

db-maintenance.co.uk
Quality installations
Kitchens & Bathrooms / Disability Bathrooms
Free Quotes
BASED IN TIPTON
Call Dan on 0121 647 3585
SUPPLY AND FIT
Fully Project Managed

Locksmiths

LockRite
Local Locksmith & Security Services
Yale ERA Chubb
- Lock-outs, Lost Keys, Broken Locks
- Emergency lock & door opening
- uPVC specialist
- Key Cutting on site
- British Standard insurance approved locks used - Bs3621
- Double Glazing Unit Repairs

24 HOUR
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
CHECKED
Call Now 0121 564 0049

Loft Ladders

LOFT SERVICES
- Loft Ladders supplied & fitted from £99
- New or enlarged loft access
- Loft Flooring fitted
- Loft Insulation

UPVC drop down hatch with easy stow aluminium ladder £185 fully fitted
For advice call Carl on 0121 556 1761
Mobile: 07502 103997
14 years' experience

Mot's

A.J.N. VEHICLE SERVICES
MOT and Service Centre
MOTs £30
No retest fee
0121 520 8003
Unit 30, Bridge Road, Toll End, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0HR

Motoring Accessories

STAR CLUTCHES & SERVICE CENTRE
★ CLUTCHES ★ GEAR BOXES ★ SERVICING
★ NOW STOCKING PARTS & ACCESSORIES
★ MOTS ★ FREE WINTER CHECK ★ RECOVERY
★ EXHAUSTS ★ DIAGNOSTICS
12 New Swan Lane, Black Lake, West Bromwich B70 0PG
Tel: 0121 553 5914

Plastering

C.A. Plastering
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering
Quality rendering and terrolining.
No job too small
07538 718264

Plumbing & Heating

Steve Smith Gas Services
07817 906745/ 01562 730882
- Landlord Checks • Spare Parts
- General/Breakdown Service
- Maintainance and Installations of Cookers, Fires etc • Gas Cowls and Flue Liners
- Ex British Gas over 24 years experience

safe 550781

Plumbing & Heating
- Bathrooms fitted
- Tiling
- Electrics
- Heating systems
- Boiler repairs

FULLY INSURED
Small or large jobs undertaken
Tel: 07470 010012

COMFORT Plumbing & Heating
- *Over 25 years experience*
- *Install, service and repair all central heating systems*
- *All gas and plumbing work undertaken • No job too small*
- *All work guaranteed • FREE written quotes*

Telephone: 0121-531 0277 Mobile: 07973 940002
comfortplumbingheating@gmail.co.uk
www.comfortplumbingandheating.co.uk
safe

HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)
iphe
All installations and repairs
Supply and fit or fit only
EST 1994
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-601 6767
www.household-plumbing.co.uk

To advertise your business and reach more than 69,000 potential customers...

1 Call us on... 01902 319590
2 E-mail us at... lisa.dandy@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Lisa Dandy, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB

Local Specialists

Plumbing & Heating

I J L GAS & PLUMBING SERVICES
INSTALL SERVICE & REPAIR
on all Boilers and Heating Systems
Bathrooms, Showers and all plumbing work
Over 25 years experience
Service and repair on Cookers and Fires
24 HOUR EMERGENCY CALL OUT
Landlord Certs and **FREE** Quotes
CALL IAN 07907 186028 / 0121 588 8414

KEN BANNISTER
Plumbing and Heating
All Plumbing, Central Heating and Gas work undertaken.
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Free estimate and advice
07964 997 845
0121 557 5958

Local Specialists

Property Maintenance

ROWAN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LTD
★ Interior/Exterior Painting And Decorating
★ All Aspects Of Plastering And Specialist Machine Rendering
★ Rendering ★ Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
★ Flooring And Tiling ★ Plus Much More....
CALL NOW FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR, CITY & GUILD QUALIFIED, PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (£5 MILLION) ALL STAFF C.R.B. CERTIFIED
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

Rubbish Removal

ALWAYS
V.S.K.
RUBBISH REMOVAL
Household Waste,
Shed & Garage Clearance
House & Garden Clearance
Tree Felling,
Also Conifers Lopped
0121-532 2392
FREE QUOTES
West Bromwich

Skip Hire

RUSSELL'S SKIPS

MINI/MIDI SKIPS
(0121) 520 3388
07721 387990

Specialists

Local Specialists

Specialists

BROMLEY CARPETS™ Est. 1963
- Carpet, Vinyl & Laminate Floorlaying Specialists
- Massive range of samples straight to your door
- Choose At Home Service
- Bromley Carpets promise not to overcharge you for carpet or flooring
- And will not rip you off with hidden charges for extra services like moving furniture and removing old carpets and waste
- FREE No Obligation Estimates and Surveys
- Unfortunately, due to overwhelming demand for carpet fitting, laminate flooring and contract work, we are unable to offer a dedicated carpet and upholstery cleaning service at this time.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
Established over 40 Years
Call Andy or Tommy Bromley on 0121-525 8870
or
07956 308581
Bromley Carpets is a Trade Mark Registered Company
BEWARE OF IMMITATIONS

Window Specialists

AFFORDABLE WINDOWS & DOORS
Work you can Trust
*Put your **Trust** in Steve...Looking after Clients for 15 years*

WINDOW PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE
DOOR BARRELL CHANGES from £20
Victorian & Edwardian Conservatories AVAILABLE CALL NOW
www.wolverhamptonwindows.co.uk
07710 434223
01902 827879
CGFI

SANDWELL GLASS AND GLAZING LTD
NO DEPOSIT TAKEN - ONLY PAY WHEN FULLY SATISFIED.
NO HIGH PRESSURE SALES PEOPLE. ● ESTABLISHED 13 YEARS
Supply only or Supply and fit -
Give us your sizes for an instant quote
Has your Double Glazing Failed? Sandwell Glazing specialises in replacing the glass only At a fraction of the original installation cost
THE ONLY WAY IS TO REPLACE
All old units are recycled and all units are manufactured at our own premises.
REPLACE THE GLASS ONLY
5 YR GUARANTEE ON SEALED UNITS
Subject to survey of existing installation
£5,000.000 public liability - Professional & Reliable Service
REPLACING THE UNIT IS THE ONLY SOLUTION
10% off for one week
Give your windows something to smile about!
LINES OPEN TILL 10pm
0121 556 9888

To advertise your business and reach more than 69,000 potential customers...
1 Call us on... 01902 319590
2 E-mail us at... lisa.dandy@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Lisa Dandy, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB

star extra TRAVEL

Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95 **Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.95**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket and an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast.
Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.95

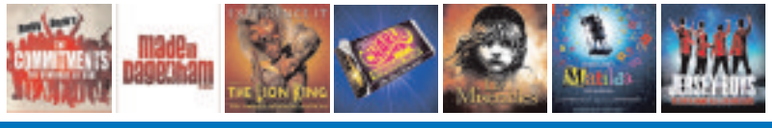
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top price ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*
Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel
Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

star extra TRAVEL

For brochures please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm, CLOSED DEC 25, 26 AND JAN 1) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises): Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The Crown Jewels and Thames Dinner Cruise

Two days departing May 17 and Sept 20

PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Tower of London including the Crown Jewels exhibition
- Evening cruise on the River Thames including a hot two-course buffet dinner with a glass of wine
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Afternoon Tea at the Houses of Parliament

Four days departing May 21

PRICE FROM £299

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Afternoon Tea in the Terrace Pavilion at the House of Commons overlooking the Thames
- Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Visit to St Albans
- Visits to Kenwood House, Kensington Palace, and the Royal Air Force Museum London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing May 9

PRICE FROM £129

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer London hotel
- Circle seat for the concert (upgrades offered)
- Sightseeing tour of London
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Butterflies and Orchids

Two days departing March 6

PRICE FROM £125

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to the Royal Botanical Kew Gardens
- Visit to RHS Wisley gardens
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Garden

Three days departing Jun 12 and Sept 18

PRICE FROM £185

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Northumbria's Heritage Coastline and visit to Lindisfarne
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visit to Durham
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

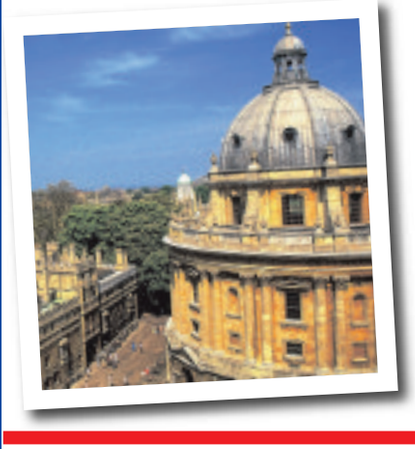
Norfolk Gardens and the Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3

PRICE FROM £219

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Norfolk Lavender Caley Mill grounds tour
- Visit the Lavender Oil Distillery
- Cream tea and lavender scones
- Visit to Cambridge
- Entrance to Sandringham house and gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham gardens
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)



Bath and Oxford

Buy one get one free

Two days departing March 22

PRICE FROM £155

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Oxford
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing April 10

PRICE FROM £219

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
- Optional North Yorkshire Moors Railway excursion
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Portsmouth from Sea to Sky

Three days departing April 25

PRICE FROM £209

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Full day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Portsmouth Harbour Cruise
- Ride to the top of Spinnaker Tower
- Entrance to the Submarine Museum
- Visit to Winchester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Bletchley Park

The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Call the Midwife

Two days departing May 16, Jul 25, Oct 3

PRICE FROM £125

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit with entrance to London's Dockyard in Chatham, including a 90-minute guided Call the Midwife tour
- Visit to Canterbury
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Emmerdale Country and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sep 25

PRICE FROM £159

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale and the Yorkshire Dales
- Short tour of Last of the Summer Wine country and visit to Holmfirth
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Manabless exert their dominance

MANABLESS FC were once again the team to beat in the Pulse Wednesbury Wednesday night league as they made it two titles on the bounce .

Coming into the season as overwhelming favourites following their exploits last campaign, they didn't disappoint.

The league's stingiest defence proved to be the catalyst, as they conceded just 29 goals, by some way the best in the division.

And with them seemingly getting stronger with each passing season, it's going to take a massive effort to stop them from making it three in a row.

Football

Wood Green FC took the runners up spot but they will be frustrated with their inconsistent displays which eventually cost them a shot at title glory.

An 11-4 win over Manabless midway through the campaign showed what they are capable of on their day, but they couldn't sustain the momentum for the rest of the season. They will surely be challenging again when the new league commences though, with a prolific attack that notched over 100 goals capable of winning them any game.

Szaints are another side who will be slightly disappointed with how their campaign panned out after poor form towards the end eliminated them from contention after they had at one point looked like overhauling Manabless.

Tiki Taka FC and BCFC both improved as the season on to finish with a respectable seven wins apiece, but it was a campaign to forget for Real Social Dads and Summerhill, who finished well adrift at the bottom.

The new season starts January 7.

Varela is tipped to play key role

SUMMER signing Silvestre Varela has been tipped for a key role in the remainder of Albion's season after his eye-catching full debut in the derby win against Villa.

Varela's Baggies teammates have predicted a bright future for the 29-year-old Portugal international after he impressed fans in Saturday's priceless victory.

Defender Gareth McAuley said: "He's a good player. We have been waiting a long time for Silv because he's been coming back from that double hernia operation.

"But I think he showed that he's a good player and he's one that the crowd will love. He gives us something different with his turning and ability to beat people. I spoke to him afterwards and asked him about the difference between playing in Portugal and playing here.

"He said 'it's quicker!' His English is coming on. He's a good lad.

"He comes in every morning and goes around everyone shaking hands.

"We try our best to communicate and a few of the lads speak Portuguese."

Varela joined the Baggies on a season-long loan from Porto.

Wednesbury side is in dominant form

Aston Old Edwardians RUFC 5 Wednesbury RUFC 50

WEDNESBURY travelled to bottom of the league Aston for a game they needed to win.

This was a scrappy and, at times , bad tempered game with both sides having players spending time in the sin bin. Throughout the game Wednesbury's pack were superb, totally dominating their opponents, and enabling the side to score seven tries .

Rugby

Their first came after they were awarded a scrum close to Aston's try line Gareth Hughes managed to pick up the ball from the scrum to go over for their first try, Tom Huggins added the conversion.

It took another 10 minutes for Wednesbury to increase their score when it came it was a was a great try John Cleaver rampaging his way through the Aston defence for a try, Tom Huggins converted.

Next it was the turn of Wednesbury's No.9 Dominic Devlin who had a scintillating game using Wednesbury's pack dominance to use the ball to great effect, winning the ball in midfield he went on a run evading Aston's attempts to bring him down to go over for their third try, Huggins converted again.

In the second half Wednesbury's dominance continued with Tom Huggins converting a penalty after only three minutes of the restart.

Then it was the turn of Mitch Grealey using his pace and strength to force his way through the Aston defence for the try, Huggins converted.

Then came Aston's only real chance of the game, they won the ball in midfield and raced through a non-existent Wednesbury defence to score a try, no conversion.

It took another 20 minutes for Wednesbury to increase their score, when it came it was a superb effort, Lee Allwood picked up the ball from the base of the scum to race through the defence for the fifth try, Huggins did his usual sterling job.

With just six minutes remaining Wednesbury were awarded a scrum again pushing their opponents backwards Brett Hooper picked up the ball to waltz through to score under the posts.

In the last minute of the game Alex Love who had been denied a number of chances finally crashed over for Wednesbury's seventh, Huggins however hit the posts spoiling his 100 percent kicking display for the game.

Wednesbury awarded a joint Man of the Match to John Cleaver and Dominic Devlin.

Wednesbury also welcomed Mick Finnegan to the club as forwards coach for the rest of the season.

Mitch Grealey on the run for Wednesbury in the game where they dominated their opponent

Mason, Dixon line is drawn

Hereford Lads 2
Team Dudley 1

TEAM Dudley were edged out 2-1 by Hereford Lads Club in West Midlands Division One after playing with 10 men for more than an hour.

Ryan Spittle put the visitors in front on 19 minutes but lost Jahmal Patterson to a red card after a strong challenge nine minutes later.

Danny Mason headed an equaliser on 40 minutes and Steve Dixon scored Hereford's winner midway through the second half.

Hereford were able to enjoy greater possession of the ball and despite admirable defending Hereford brought the game equal on 40 minutes when a fine cross was met by the head of Mason.

Hereford were out the traps early in the second half and it took a Liam Jones save with his legs to keep parity.

Despite being a man down TD were defending resolutely but were undone when a clever inside pass saw Captain Steve Dixon beat the advancing Jones to give Hereford the lead on 66 minutes.

TD provided a threat and on 73 minutes from a keeper miss clearance saw the ball eventually fall to safety.

Best is yet to come, vows Ideye

ALBION record signing Brown Ideye insists his best is yet to come after admitting he has taken time to adapt to life at The Hawthorns.

Ideye made just his third Premier League start recently and, despite struggling personally, the £10m man helped the Baggies to a 1-0 derby win against Villa.

Now the Nigeria international believes he is edging closer to his best.

"I was happy that I was in the first XI," said Ideye. "I was always hungry to start for West Brom and I always give my best.

"Sometimes it's difficult but I have to keep on pushing and working hard for the team. I am getting closer to my best."

Blues hand out a right Royal rout

Birmingham 6 Reading 1

Paul Caddis opened the scoring before Gray's clinical first-half hat-trick, while goals from Andrew Shinnie and David Cotterill completed the rout.

Caddis blasted home from a clever fourth-minute free-kick before Gray broke to make it 2-0 against the run of play.

Reading pulled one back in the 19th minute through Glenn Murray, only for the excellent Gray to restore the two-goal lead with another well-taken solo effort.

Reading at that point were actually arguably the better team, yet Gray completed his hat-trick before half-time, again on the break to help seal the fater of the Royals.

SPORT

Manabless-ed
Five-a-side team is the one to beat
Page 39

Dominant form
Rugby squad run up half a century
Page 39

Sports Desk 01902 319531 email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Ellis, 18, signs on to ride for Brum

BIRMINGHAM have pulled off a major signing by snapping up talented British teenager Adam Ellis to spearhead their assault on the National League title.

Ellis, aged 18, burst onto the scene with the Isle of Wight in 2013 before graduating to Elite and Premier League action last season.

However, he will now return to the National League as top man in the new-look Brummies side as they prepare for life in the third division.

Ellis says Perry Barr was always his destination of choice once he discovered he would be eligible to return to the third tier.

And he says it's a massive honour to be joining the Perry Barr club in what promises to be an exciting season which sees him doubling up with Elite League Lakeside.

Said Ellis: "It's an honour to be riding for a club like Birmingham, it's a challenge I'm looking forward to and I'm really pleased the opportunity came along.

"Obviously I had a year out of the National League last year, but I'm excited to be coming back and getting to lead a team as No.1 which I didn't get to do last time. H

"Hopefully I can have a good season and score plenty of points."

Sacked boss is left blue

READING have sacked manager Nigel Adkins in the wake of Saturday's humiliating 6-1 defeat at Birmingham.

Adkins, who took the reins at the Madejski Stadium from Brian McDermott in March 2013 and presided over relegation from the Premier League, leaves with the Royals in 16th position in the Championship following the heavy loss against Gary Rowett's men.

Assistant manager Andy Crosby and first-team coach Dean Wilkins have also left.

A club statement read: "The board of Reading Football Club have this afternoon relieved manager Nigel Adkins of his duties.

"The club met with Nigel in person and we would like to place on permanent record our thanks to him for his hard work and diligence since his appointment."

Geldart strikes twice to trouble Tipton

Football

TIPTON Town 2 Heath Hayes 3

Chris Geldart netted twice as Heath Hayes boosted their survival hopes with a 3-2 win at fellow strugglers Tipton Town.

Hosts Tipton were left trailing in the visitors' wake in a keenly-contested local derby as defeat left them at the foot of the Midland Premier League. Heath Hayes now have a six-point gap over the bottom two.

Tipton, however, had struck first after just four minutes when a flag-kick from the right was powerfully headed home by central defender Paul Henley.

The visitors, undeterred, threatened quickly with Danny Scragg spearing a firm header just over and it was 1-1 after eight minutes.

A searching cross from the right undid the home defence and Geldart equalised from close in.

Both sides tried to take charge as the action flowed end to end, Kyle Sheppard firing narrowly off target for Tipton.

Luke Wright was setting a fine example to his Heath Hayes colleagues with some powerful play that was helping to turn the tide in his side's favour and they took the lead in the 17th minute.

Joe Pickering cottoned on to a precision pass, enabling him to draw home keeper, Matt Martin, off his goal-line before accurately driving the ball past him.

Tipton rallied briefly, Sean Pugh freeing Ben Hadley but his shot passed a foot or so wide as the home club desperately sought to regain the initiative.

Most of the forward play was now being dictated by the visitors. Scragg was again to the fore but, with a goal seemingly a formality, he drove wildly over the top in the 26th minute.

Soon after the start of the second half, Pickering took advantage of some wayward play in the home defence but, with a third goal seeming a certainty for the now-dominant visitors, he fired just over.

In the 62nd minute Geldart netted his second, to put the visitors 3-1 in front and, in control of the game.

With injury time being played Ben Hadley scrambled a goal back for Tipton from close-range through a packed goalmouth but the visitors clung on to the points.

IRVINE GRABS A PIECE OF HISTORY

Albion 1 Villa 0

WHATEVER happens in Alan Irvine's troubled Hawthorns reign, he now has a bit of Albion history on his CV.

Irvine is the first man in more than three years to deliver victory for the club against their closest rivals. For Paul Lambert, too, the full implications of events were unclear as he left the scene to reflect on defeat.

The Villa boss will hope and believe Craig Gardner's match-winning goal was merely a bump in the road that leads to the top half of the Premier League table and a bright future with job security.

Yet he will know the significance of losing to their neighbours could trigger a series of results that puts him and his position as boss back in the spotlight.

Respective

In truth, both sets of fans departed unsure of exactly what Albion's 1-0 victory meant or their respective clubs' seasons and futures.

The only thing that was clear was that Albion fans had much more fun on Saturday afternoon than their claret and blue counterparts.

And for Irvine, that meant a rare Sunday of relative relaxation in a campaign when most weekends have been spent copping abuse and wondering just how long Jeremy Peace would wait before reacting.

The Albion boss was rewarded for the kind of boldness that supporters have been demanding for weeks.

Football

But even after including summer signings Brown Ideye and Silvestre Varela in his starting line-up to general acclaim from the Baggies fanbase, he was forced to endure an afternoon of tension and stress before Gardner's well-struck maiden Albion goal ensured him a rare moment of pleasure.

Because while Kieran Richardson's ill-judged 23rd-minute tackle on Baggies midfielder Stephane Sessegnon and the red card that followed turned out to be a blessing for Irvine, it could so easily have been a curse.

If the pressure on the Baggies boss was not intense enough before his first derby in charge, the sending-off of the former Hawthorns loanee made the Villa game one the hosts simply had to win.

And for 50 minutes of action, it appeared his side might find Villa's 10 men impossible to break down and land their chairman with a big decision to make.

Gardner's winner was just reward for a second half performance in which the Baggies turned the screw on

Villa's Fabian Delph makes a comeback in the derby against the Baggies but saw his side lose

Cricket boost for city

WARWICKSHIRE Cricket Club were celebrating a £1m boost after being awarded an Ashes Test in 2019.

The greatest series in cricket will return to Edgbaston after the venue hosts next year's England v Australia Third Test showdown.

With 100,000 spectators expected to attend the five-day event, it will be worth around £1m for the club and an estimated £20m for the area.

The ECB has revealed its international packages for 2017-19, with the Birmingham venue featuring prominently.

Highlights of the new ECB package includes the return of top-class cricket at Edgbaston in all three years, with England set to take on West Indies in an Test in 2017, India in 2018 and Australia in the Ashes series of 2019.

Additionally, the ICC Champions Trophy (2017) and ICC Cricket World Cup (2019) will be played in Birmingham with Edgbaston set to host five-match packages in both tournaments.

Colin Povey, chief executive of Warwickshire, said: "It's fantastic news for us and for the city."

Spireites must replay MK Dons

THE FA has ruled Chesterfield must replay their FA Cup second-round tie with MK Dons.

The Spireites beat the Dons 1-0, but after the game admitted a charge of fielding an ineligible player, on loan Wolves player George Margreitter, who played despite not completing the necessary paperwork in time.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, December 25

When You Need Extra Support and Care at Home...

Tipton HOME CARE LTD
www.tiptonhomecare.co.uk

Tipton Home Care provides personal care and support to the people of Tipton and the surrounding areas. Tipton Home Care are always interested in talking to anyone who would like to join our company as care workers to meet our ever increasing client list.

PERSONAL CARE IN YOUR OWN HOME
From 7am - 10.00pm
• Breakfast > Lunch > Dinner
• Wash and Dress
• Evening Time > Bedtime Visit

Areas covered:
Tipton, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, North Dudley, Yew Tree Walsall, Tividale & Great Barr

Tipton HOME CARE LTD
Telephone: **0121 557 3649** (9am-5pm)
Mobile: **07889 018517**
Fax: **0121 557 6080**